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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 97

SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2010

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
proposal to allow the
operation of casinos
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INSIDE



SAES Winners

Three students emerged overall winners in the San Antonio Elementary School Book Fair competition.

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Oil Spill

An oil platform that burned for more than a day has sank into the Gulf of Mexico.

NATION...Page 10



RP Voting

The Philippine Consul General appeals to Filipino absentee voters to turn in their ballots now.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Hundreds take part in road, lagoon cleanup

Department of Public Health employees pick up trash near the Garapan Central Park yesterday afternoon as part of the Division of Environmental Quality's and Beautify CNMI's islandwide cleanup, to wrap up Environmental Awareness Month activities. The cleanup continues today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In just about an hour, volunteers hauled over 400 lbs of trash dumped in the waters fronting the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday morning as part of the Division of Environmental Quality and Beautify CNMI's annual islandwide cleanup.

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29TH FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL

No parade of floats and booth contest

Insufficient funding has prompted the Council for Arts and Culture to do away with the usual parade of floats, booth and float competitions for the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival.

In a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Arts Council executive director Angel Hocog confirmed that their decision to take out the parade of floats and booth competition from this year's program is basically due to lack of funds. "All things that would cost us were struck out from our plan because of funding. We have to stay within our resources," Hocog explained.

See PARADE on Page 4



Santos

OPA chief investigator arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police officers arrested yesterday afternoon the Office of Public Auditor's chief investigator for allegedly unlawfully purchasing two boxes of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition.

» Ex-cop allegedly
illegally bought
ammunition

Juan M. Santos, 43, was arrested for manufacture, sale or possession of firearms and dangerous devices; failure to show an identification card prerequisite to purchase, possession and use; and possession.

Department of Public Safety spokesman

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Nogis' \$40K contract snagged by funding woes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Funding issues, as well as questions on the justification given for sole-source procurement, snagged the processing of Felix R. Nogis' federally funded \$40,000 sole-source

contract with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz said yesterday that the Department of Finance returned the contract to DLNR, for it to resolve issues related to providing allotment advice to

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Nogis

'31 pct. of school administrators meet requirements' PAGE 2
Pacific areas to be closed to purse seine fishing next year. PAGE 3

Local

3 students top San Antonio book fair competition

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Three students emerged overall

winners in the annual San Antonio Elementary School Book Fair competition, besting hundreds of young authors during

yesterday's awarding ceremony on campus.

Emigrace Vinuya was awarded the top prize in the kinder-

garten to first grade division, along with Chevy Kate Alipio, who bagged the overall title in the second to third grade division. Jasmin Indalecio got the top award in the fourth to sixth grade level.

Rita Carreon, San Antonio Elementary School spokesperson, said the winning books will be added to the school library's collection.

Other books, meantime, were offered by the young authors to their parents.

There were 320 students from kindergarten to sixth grade that joined the activity, with each participant required to write their own books using the Public School System's benchmarks and standards. The activity was also part of the school's curriculum on Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies.

Besides the knowledge and creativity they gained in writing their own stories, students were also provided gift items as prizes.

The school first recognized the top three books in each division and from them named the overall winners.

Teacher Carreon said San



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students show off their winning poster in celebration of Earth Day during yesterday's awarding ceremonies. From left are fifth graders Gilbert Acevia, Mae Indalecio, Zion Castro and Davina Magofna.

Antonio joined other schools and organizations in celebrating National Library Week from April 12 to 16. The school also invited parents and community members to participate in their Read-A-Thon campaign where they read stories to students in the classroom.

San Antonio also joined the community in celebrating Earth Day yesterday. Upper graders were seen helping volunteers in their cleanup campaign.

Also part of the celebration was the launching of the poster-making competition, which was won by the fifth graders of Corin Regil, composed of Gilbert Acevia, Mae Indalecio, Zion Castro and Davina Magofna.

Carreon lauded the commitment shown by community members, school staff, and students in making the twin celebrations this week a big success for San Antonio Elementary School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Young Author Book Fair winners pose with their teachers during yesterday's awarding rites on campus. From left are Jasmin Indalecio, Chevy Kate Alipio, and Emigrace Vinuya.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan reported to the Board of Education on Thursday that 31 percent of school administrators have met all the requirements and qualifications set by the board.

These include obtaining a degree, passing Praxis tests,

'31 pct. of school administrators meet requirements'

obtaining the necessary certificates, and having long years of teaching experience.

Sablan emphasized, though, that the remaining 69 percent cannot be called "not highly qualified" because they're now in the process of completing all the requirements and have

been effective in their role as school leaders.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are 12 school administrators who are deemed highly qualified at present, composed of eight principals and four vice principals.

PSS classifies principals and

vice principals as school administrators. There are 20 public schools on three islands with one principal each and one or two vice principals, depending on the school enrollment.

Marianas High School principal Karen Borja is among those administrators classified

as fully compliant with the requirements. She has two vice principals attending to over a thousand enrollees each year.

Another example is Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas, who has met all the standards. He also has two vice principals.

School administrators interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday estimated that PSS has over 40 principals and vice principals.

Like teachers and counselors, administrators have their own compensation plan, where the salary level is based on their certification and years of service.

To become fully certified, school administrators must have a degree or higher, must pass Praxis tests, and must complete all courses to get an administrator's certification, comprising seven different "certificates."

Majority of these "courses" are offered online while other sessions are offered by PSS by bringing in experts from the United States.

Saipan Tribune learned that school administrators who have yet to fully meet the requirements are classified as "acting" principal or "acting" vice principal.

Like public school teachers, school administrators and counselors are expected to meet the federal mandate of becoming highly qualified by July 2011. Sablan on Thursday expressed confidence that this deadline will be met.

As of last week, 73 percent of public school teachers and 62 percent of school counselors were already classified as highly qualified.

Sablan said the Human Resources Office expects better results in the April Praxis test because test takers will be allowed an extended time to take the test.

NMC tourism students visit Laolao Bay Golf Resort

Students of Northern Marianas College's Introduction to the Hospitality Industry course recently visited the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman to tour the resort's brand new hotel facility and learn about the company's food and beverage services, recreational facilities, and resort operations.

LaoLao Bay Golf human resources manager Mary-Lou Ada and housekeeping manager Janet Santos led the students on a tour of several of the various ultra-modern hotel suites and guestrooms, spa facility, restaurants, and conference facilities.

The students were also introduced to the various career opportunities and current entry-level job openings at the resort.

"This type of hands-on experience really broadens our students' perspectives, especially as they learned so much about one of our premier local



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College tourism students Kento Togawa, Yvette Bennett, Yvonne Bennett, Lawrence Camacho, Berna Lotoc, and Eulelia pose with Laolao Bay Golf Resort staff.

resort and recreational facilities, and the qualities and atti-

tudes necessary to succeed in the tourism/hospitality field,"

said NMC instructor Larry Lee. (NMC)

Air Force to conduct military training on FDM

Santa Rita, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 29-30, from 9am to 8pm.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times

and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

Pacific areas to be closed to purse seine fishing next year

Same suspects eyed in 3 burglaries in San Vicente, Capital Hill, Papago

Three houses in San Vicente, Capital Hill, and Papago were recently burglarized, believed to be perpetrated by the same group of burglars.

According to Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong yesterday, the burglars struck last March 7, April 11, and April 19.

Tarkong said the first burglary happened on Sunday morning of March 7 at a residence near Vestcor Village in Capital Hill, where a *Louis Vuitton* wallet containing cash, identification and credit cards was stolen.

"The victim's Blackberry cell phone was also stolen

from his car parked outside the residence. There are initials on the *Louis Vuitton* wallet," Tarkong said.

Meantime, the April 11 Sunday morning incident occurred at a residence in San Vicente. Two cellular phones and a wallet were stolen.

Tarkong said the cell phones are of the HTC brand and Touch Diamond model.

"Items in the wallet include credit cards, identification cards and cash," the Crime Stoppers coordinator said.

The April 19 Monday morning burglary happened at a residence in the I'Denni area near Dr. Jack's and between Capital

Hill and Papago.

Tarkong said the stolen items were a silver Gateway laptop computer, a blue Fuji digital camera, a silver Nikon digital camera, a white purse with a black strap containing keys and a silver/black wallet. In the wallet were identification and credit cards, and cash.

"It is possible that these burglaries may be related and involved the same suspect[s]," Tarkong said.

He said the Crime Stoppers Program and the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau are seeking help from the community to solve these burglaries. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—Parties to the Nauru Agreement closed out this week's meeting by agreeing yesterday to the world's largest closure of the high seas to purse seine fishing starting Jan. 1, 2011.

The Parties to the Nauru Agreement includes the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Collectively these countries are the owners of 25 percent of the world's tuna supply.

The PNA announced yesterday that from Jan. 1, 2011, high seas surrounding these countries will be closed to purse seine fishing vessels licensed to fish in their waters.

This closed high seas area:

■ Stretches from Palau and Papua New Guinea in the west to Kiribati in the east, Marshall

Islands in the north to Tuvalu in the south.

■ Covers all high seas areas from 10 degrees North latitude to 20 degrees South latitude and 170 degrees East to 150 degrees West in longitude.

■ Covers an area of 4,555,000 square kilometers.

The PNA also has 100 percent observer coverage of purse seine vessels to monitor compliance of the high seas area closure.

The PNA have a tradition of innovative conservation and management measures such as the Vessel Day Scheme (a system whereby a set number of fishing days will be sold and traded to the highest bidding fishing companies), closure of high seas areas to fishing and control of Fish Aggregating Devices (or 'FADs', which are human-made devices to attract

schools of fish that often result in high juvenile fish catches).

This week officials also began planning for extension of the ban on Fish Aggregating Devices—currently banned for three months a year—to specifically target countries overfishing bigeye tuna in the high seas.

PNA director Dr. Transform Aqorau said: "We are pleased to implement the decisions of the leaders at the 1st Presidential Summit in February in Palau by announcing January 1, 2011, as the start date of world's largest high seas closure to strengthen conservation and management of tuna in the Pacific Islands." *(PR)*

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Docomo donates \$4,500 in cash and prizes to NMC Foundation

Docomo Pacific Saipan recently donated \$2,500 in cash and \$1,500 worth in prizes to the Northern Marianas College Foundation to help enhance educational and professional training opportunities and to assist in its 8th Annual Open golf tournament scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

"We support the Foundation's efforts in providing doors of opportunities to students in the CNMI," said James Nelson, general manager of Docomo Pacific Saipan. "We are proud to assist them in their efforts."

The donation was presented in support of the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"My fellow Foundation members and I are thankful for Docomo's donations," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta. "The prizes are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas College Foundation receives \$4,500 in cash and prizes from Docomo Pacific in efforts to help enhance higher education in the CNMI and to assist in its 8th Annual Open golf tournament. In the photo are Docomo Pacific's General Manager, James Nelson, third from left, President of NMC Foundation, Vicente "Ben" Babauta, fourth from left, pose for a photo while Docomo Pacific staff smile on.

sure to entice players to play in our golf open."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the ut-

most support in pursuing their educational goals.

Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort will play host to the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010.

For information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation, contact 234-5498 Ext. 1050 or log on to the NMC Web site at www.nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*



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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB2010-R-001
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios Ku Project, Phase I**, in Chalan Kanoa Village District No. 2 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Scope of Work, Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after Thursday, April 15, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20100001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2010**, at the proposed project site in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, across the U.S. Post Office, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB2010-R-001"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, May 4, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 4, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@plicom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 4, 2010 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than May 13, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 14, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, May 4, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Saipan Leadership Memorial Kios Ku Project, Phase I". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAC §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates **ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**


This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
 Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan,
 Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

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Election Commission explores federal grants; 2 initiatives approved for ballot

The Commonwealth Election Commission is exploring ways on how it could obtain federal grants to help augment its funding needs during elections.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero disclosed yesterday that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan is looking on how the CNMI can tap federal grants under the Help America Vote Act, which provides Guam and other territories from \$70,000 to \$100,000 every year.

However, a minor amendment to the Act is required in order for the CNMI

to get this grant.

Guerrero is optimistic that Sablan could help the CNMI become eligible for the grant.

The CNMI will hold its second election for delegate on Nov. 2.

Guerrero admitted that, so far, no money has been identified or allocated for this purpose.

Early this week, he asked the Legislature for supplemental funding of \$128,000 for the election this year.

The amount, he said, covers logistics and operational expenditures,

including public education for two legislative initiatives that have so far been certified to be on the November ballot. For each additional initiatives, more funding is needed, according to the CEC official.

CEC estimates to spend \$40,000 for every initiative. More initiatives are expected to be included in the election this year after the Senate passed three legislative initiatives; they now await the House's approval.

Guerrero said CEC needs to have the money as early as August for the printing of ballots.

If the supplemental funding is approved, public education for the first two initiatives will start, he said. **(Mon-eth G. Deposa)**

NOGIS

From Page 1

reprogram funds for a professional service contract with Nogis, doing business as FELNO Consulting Services.

Prior to this, Division of Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan also initially returned the sole-source procurement justification that Dela Cruz sent.

"He said it didn't meet the requirements so we worked on it again and it was approved," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office in Lower Base yesterday afternoon.

Nogis, doing business as FELNO Consulting Services, earlier bagged a separate \$60,000 sole-source contract as consultant to the secretary of the Department of Public Lands, primarily for Northern Islands development projects and assessment of DPL's policy in public land development and investment.

Once Nogis' contract with DLNR is approved by all entities required to sign off on it, he will become a logistics su-

pervisor/coordinator for a Northern Islands terrestrial/marine survey.

"DLNR already approved the contract for him, but there are other officials who also have to sign the contract, like the Finance secretary, the attorney general, and the governor," he said.

Dela Cruz, along with DLNR's Manny Pangelinan, said they have worked on the necessary allotment advice and reprogramming of funds. These should be completed soon, before Finance can certify that there are sufficient funds available for this contract.

Dela Cruz said the contract he signed is back at DLNR, its copy is kept by one of his staffers who was on leave yesterday.

"We hope that the process will be expedited because the project is supposed to start now," he said.

He said because the contract is still with DLNR, the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor have yet to review the contract.

Unlike his consultant contract with DPL which is for one year, Nogis's \$40,000 contract with DLNR is supposedly only for up to nine months.

But just like contract with DPL, No-

gis will also be working on DLNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife projects related to the Northern Islands.

Some government employees expressed disappointment yesterday that while they will soon receive a 10-hour work hour cut equivalent to 12.5 percent of their salary per pay period, the government continues to hire consultants and employees they deem not essential.

Nogis, a Covenant Party member and part of the Fitial-Inos Transition Review Committee, is the chairman of the Committee to Elect Joseph N. Camacho as CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed by the ruling Covenant Party.

Sources have also questioned awarding such a contract to a person with a federal conviction and whether the contract amount required a public notice.

Nogis was convicted on federal theft charges involving over \$15,000 worth of personal telephone calls to and from Palau and other places in 2000 when he was still executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency, and submitted the bills for those calls to WIA, which was receiving federal funds.

OPA

From Page 1

Eric David said that members of the DPS Joint Drug Enforcement Task Force and Criminal Investigation Bureau served the arrest warrant issued by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo on Santos at OPA's office on Capital Hill at 2pm.

Santos, a former police officer, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon. Attorney Joseph N. Camacho served as his counsel. Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher appeared for the government.

Associate Judge David Wiseman allowed the defendant to post \$150 cash for his temporary release.

Wiseman prohibited Santos from obtaining a new passport. Arraignment

was set for May 3 at 9am.

Detective Roque Camacho said in his report that on Nov. 13, 2009, a former employee at the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles/Office of Records and Firearms reviewed a list of sale of ammunition submitted by Joeten Enterprises.

Camacho said the employee came across the name of Santos, who, according to the list, purchased on Oct. 26, 2009, two boxes of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition using a badge number instead of a firearms identification card.

Upon reviewing records at the Office of Firearms and Records, another employee discovered that Santos never possessed any firearms identification card, nor did he ever possess any permit to purchase any firearms or ammunition.

It was allegedly Debra Guerrero who sold the two boxes of ammunition to Santos, who used what Guerrero

described as a "police ID" with badge number 029 at the time.

When asked why she authorized the sale, Guerrero claimed they've done it before, Camacho said. Guerrero later apologized and assured that the incident will never happen again, according to the detective.

Camacho said Santos resigned from the DPS on May 10, 2008 and began work as an investigator under the Office of the Attorney General. Santos is currently the chief investigator at OPA.

"In his entire career in law enforcement, there have been no records to indicate that Santos ever owned a firearms identification card," the detective said.

As investigator of the OAG's White Collar Crimes/Public Corruption Task Force, Santos handled the investigation of some law enforcers, among other cases.

only to the community but also to all the sponsors of the festival. Among the sponsors are Delta Air Lines, DFS Galleria, Bank of Guam, IT&E, Coca Cola, Mobil, and Marpac.

There will be a raffle draw during the three-day event. Prizes for the raffle were donated by the festival's major sponsors. Two individuals will take home any of two roundtrip tickets, courtesy of Delta Air Lines. Tickets sell for \$5 each. The raffle draw will be at 7pm tomorrow.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is the largest arts and crafts event in Micronesia that attracts thousands of participants and spectators each year. **(Saipan Tribune)**

San Nicolas, Sanchez are Bank of Guam's new VPs

HAGATNA, Guam—The board of directors, management and staff of the Bank of Guam are proud to announce two promotions to vice president.

Dina San Nicolas, assistant vice president/human resources training officer is now vice president/human resources manager. A graduate of Guam Community College, Dina is a 23-year employee who won the Bank's Employee of the Year in 2004, Customer Service Representative of the Year in 2003 and Excellence in Supervision in 1997.



San Nicolas

San Nicolas has also been a branch manager, overseeing the bank's Mangilao, Yigo and Dededo In-store branches. She has also worked in its Andersen and Hagatna offices. San Nicolas has been a volunteer with Big BrothersBig Sisters of Guam, MakeAWish Foun-

dation and Our Lady of Lourdes Yigo Catholic Church.

Jennifer Sanchez, assistant vice president/mangilao branch manager is now vice president/Hagatna branch manager. A graduate of Oceanview High School, Sanchez holds Professional Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees from the University of Guam. Sanchez is the recipient of Bank's 2005



Sanchez

Excellence in Customer Service and 2008 Branch Manager of the Year Awards.

Sanchez has served in the Hagatna and Yigo branches, as well as managed the Bank's Customer Service Department. She is the current president of the University of Guam Alumni Association. **(PR)**

HUNDREDS

From Page 1

The cleanup, which continues today, wraps up the activities lined up for the Environmental Awareness Month in April.

Hundred more volunteers, mostly government employees and officials with black trash bags in tow, picked up litter in major roadsides, parks, and tourist spots on Saipan for two hours in the afternoon, from 2pm to 4pm.

Young and old, they all battled the merciless sun and the prickly heat to pick up plastic bags, empty water bottles, soda and beer cans, papers, cigarette butts, and all other debris they can get their hands on.

While the number of volunteers is fewer this year than last year, this didn't pose any problem. In fact, other volunteers were surprised to see a lesser volume of garbage that needed to be picked up and hauled.

"I'm gladly surprised... We're expecting much more [trash] than this. It seems like people are now more aware of their surroundings and fewer people throw away trash anywhere," said Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar as he and 11 other EMO personnel cleaned up the roadsides from their office yard on Capital Hill down to the Puerto Rico area.

Carline Sablan, an economic development analyst at the Commonwealth Development Authority, said 11 CDA employees and trainees knew beforehand that the area assigned to them for cleanup—from the Horiguchi Building to the beach area across Naked Fish along Beach Road—is regularly maintained by either the Department of Public Works or the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"So we didn't get to see a lot of trash. But the most common types of litter we found were cigarette butts, soda and beer cans and water bottles," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ben Cabrera, 44, program administrator at the Department of Public Works' Technical Services Division, filled two trash bags of litter he came across, also from Horiguchi Building to the beach area across Naked Fish.

But just like other DPW personnel,

he continued the cleanup all the way south to the Microl-Beach Road intersection in San Jose.

"We want to help make sure that the environment is clean. I suggest we do this at least once a month and not once every year, to maintain the beauty of our island. We spend millions of dollars to attract tourists to come to Saipan but what do we show them? We should show them a clean island," he said.

Franco Masga, 9, was one of the youngest volunteers in yesterday's cleanup. While bothered by the relentless sun, he was getting motivation from his father, DEQ manager for site assessment and remediation Ray Masga, in picking up trash from the DEQ office on Middle Road to the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

"Stop throwing trash and keep the island clean," he said, when asked about his message to those who throw their trash on roadsides.

A few meters from them were Environmental Awareness Month vice chair Leilani Deleon Guerrero and co-chair for educational and outreach Olivia Tebuteb, both from DEQ.

Tebuteb and Deleon Guerrero said the one-hour scuba dive cleanup yesterday morning in the waters by the Garapan Fishing Base netted over 400 lbs of trash.

"A lot of the items we found were batteries, like those used for radios and flashlights," said Tebuteb. DEQ and the Northern Marianas Dive Association teamed up for the scuba dive cleanup.

Angela Rosario, a data management specialist in the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, said it's her first time to join an islandwide cleanup and will continue to participate in future cleanups.

"It's hot but it's fun because a lot of people are doing the same thing at the same time," she said.

South of the legislative building on Capital Hill, lawmakers and their staffers also picked up trash. In all other areas on Saipan, different government agencies also did their part in helping to maintain cleanliness.

The islandwide cleanup continues today, with most volunteers coming from the private sector.

PARADE

From Page 1

By tradition, the festival begins with a parade of floats of different organizations and institutions that starts at one point and ends at the festival's venue. Also, all set-up booths are eligible for the best booth competition. The winning float and booth are announced during the festival and are given cash awards.

A total of 130 booths for food, artists, and non-profit organizations were set up for this year.

The festival kicked off yesterday with performances from Ukulele Group, Inatuas, Tropical Blenz, D'Isla danc-

ers from Rota, Maluw Band, Inetnon Gef Pago from Guam, Talofa Dancers, Chamolinian Warriors, and Past and Present group.

The opening ceremony will be held today at 10am.

Hocog remains optimistic that the public will continue to demonstrate unwavering support to the festival despite the challenges confronting it. "I invite the community to show their support to this event, to show [their] support to our local artists."

This year's festival will be dedicated to three local artists: Richard Naputi of Saipan, Henry Manglona of Tinian, and Deta Duenas Mendiola of Rota.

Hocog extends his appreciation not

Two more get scholarships for JSA Summer Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two more students from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive an all expense paid scholarship, the Junior State announced yesterday afternoon.

Ignacio Dela Cruz of Marianas High School and Allyssa Arangorin of Kagman High School were both selected by

The Junior Statesmen Foundation to receive a full ride scholarship to attend one of the JSA Summer School Programs.

"We were very excited after learning that we would be awarding additional scholarships," Elliot Nguyen, director of International Programs, said. "We reviewed our applicant pool again and chose the

students we felt would likely give back to their communities in the future."

Allyssa will attend the Stanford Summer School Program, while Ignacio will attend the Princeton Summer School Program.

The new scholarships were made possible because of Dr. Rita Sablan, commissioner for

public schools in the CNMI. Dr. Sablan agreed to fund two scholarships when two JSF staff members visited the CNMI in February.

"We're also thankful to Public Schools Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and the CNMI Public Schools for partnering with The Junior Statesmen Foundation to give more students the

opportunity to study in the U.S. with us," Nguyen said.

To date, six students attending one of JSA's programs will receive a full ride scholarship.

As usual, the students chosen demonstrated high-achieving grades, strong leadership skills, involvement in the community, and an interest in public service.

Students attending one of JSA's Summer School Programs this summer will spend three to four weeks at one of the nation's prestige schools, including Georgetown University, Princeton University, and Stanford University.

For more information or if interested in donating for scholarships, contact Elliott Nguyen, director of International Programs, at enguyen@jsa.org. (PR)

Manglona: Pass FY 2010 budget by May 15

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) called yesterday for the House and the Senate to work together to be able to pass a Fiscal Year 2010 budget ready

for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signature by May 15, 2010.

In a two-page letter to House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Manglona said if the speaker is amenable to this idea, he respectfully urges the House to pass a concurrent

resolution reflecting the latest projected government revenues as quickly as possible.

"Once this has been accomplished, I will instruct the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs to immediately begin to work with her counter-

part in the House, and bring in department and agencies' heads to discuss budgetary needs for the remainder of the year," Manglona told Tenorio.

Manglona hoped Tenorio would take the idea into consideration.

Manglona sent the letter almost a week after the Senate rejected the 10-hour work cut proposal by the House as contained in House Bill 17-45, HD6. The Senate passed its version of the

bill without the work hour cuts but it proposes tax and fee hikes.

The Senate move disappointed not only the House but also the Fitial administration, citing the need for an immediate reduction in government expenses as projected revenue was revised from \$150 million to \$137 million for FY 2010.

Tenorio said he would refer the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee next week.

"...I would like to propose

that we put behind us the past three months and start anew. I remember the optimism and enthusiasm that surrounded inauguration day in January, and I hope that we may be able to rekindle this mindset and make a fresh start by working cooperatively on the budget process. Passing a budget is in the best interests of the Commonwealth, and our people, during these fiscally difficult times," Manglona added.



IUMC remembers Holocaust victims

Photo: Six candles were lit for those killed in the Holocaust – six million Jews and almost six million gypsies, gays and lesbians, Poles, Soviets and people with body limitations. Lighting left to right: Mary Deala, Grace Dowez, Celeste Moore, and Serafina Rogoyawa. (Not pictured: Mark Deala and WuMian Wang).

PHOTO: BRYAN JONES

The Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa devoted part of last Sunday's service to commemorating the 67th Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Between 1933 and 1945, the German Nazi government killed six million (two-thirds of all) European Jews and another five million Gypsies, gays and lesbians, people with physical or mental limitations, Polish citizens, Soviet prisoners-of-war and political prisoners. IUMC also honored others, including innocent Native Americans, African-Americans, Filipino political prisoners, Iraqis, Palestinians.

Lay Pastor Millie Carroll tied Sunday's scripture (John 21:1-19, Jesus telling Peter to "care for my sheep") and the Holocaust as the most horrible example of *not* caring for God's sheep. Carroll told about famous German Pastor Martin Niemöller feeling so ashamed that though he'd often preached about "taking care of God's sheep," during the early Holocaust he failed to speak against it.

In public confessions about feeling his terrible failure, Niemöller said, "First the Nazis came for the Communists but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Socialists and trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist or trade unionist. Then they came

for the Jews but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out. And when they came for me there was no one left to speak out for me." (Because they'd all been taken away).

Six candles were lit to remember the victims. The first candle by Celeste Moore: "Lit for people killed because they didn't have light coloring." The second by Mark Deala, "for millions who died because they were Jewish." By Mary Deala, "for wanderers without homes and people with other beliefs." Serafina Rogoyawa, "for those who died because their minds or bodies had difficulties." WuMian Wang, "for those who died because they spoke against the horror." And the sixth by Celeste, "with the prayer and hope that ways this is happening today can end."

Many were moved by Grace Dowez, who read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and summarized the Franks' two years hiding in the factory attic of Anne's father's employers. Anne Frank wrote daily in her diary, left behind when the family of eight was sent to Belsen Bergen Concentration Camp and death. Grace shared parts of Anne's diary.

Carroll said, "Although risking their own death, Miep and Jan Gies lovingly shielded the Franks in their factory attic. When Anne's father, the only family member to survive con-

centration returned, Miep gave him Anne's diary she'd saved. Though Miep was 'taking care of God's sheep' as Jesus had told Peter, she insisted she was only doing and caring as anyone should."

Sunday IUMC members wore a Jewish Star of David in memory of Hitler forcing Jews to wear them to separate them from others. The stars were also in memory of the other five million, not required to wear stars, but who lost their lives. A reminder of the terror that hating because of differences can cause and seeing but ignoring abuse can cause to an individual, a church or organization, and a nation.

Carroll told the congregation, "As a church and individuals we need to speak against injustices we see. We've just celebrated Easter and God's love for the world. We need to follow Jesus' command to Peter 'Care for my sheep' and that includes sheep beside us. If we see others treated unkindly, we're called to defend—something we can and should do."

All are warmly welcome to IUMC's worship services and children's Sunday School at 9am. Although very international, both are in English. IUMC in Chalan Kanoa is on Chalan Kanoa Drive and Barbara Avenue (east of Town Center and Beach Road near Mt. Carmel Cathedral). Phone: 322-6158. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB2010-R-002
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Installation of the Holding Tank for the Blue Grotto**, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Scope of Work, Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after Friday, April 16, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20100001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 30, 2010**, at the proposed project site in Marpi, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**NMHC IFB2010-R-002**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, May 6, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 6, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@nticm.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 6, 2010 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than May 17, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 18, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, May 6, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Installation of the Holding Tank for the Blue Grotto". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAC §70.30.3.01 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 97Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

No more bailouts

The financial crisis of 2008 was one of the most damaging economic episodes in American history, and it left Democrats and Republicans in complete agreement that it should not be repeated. As President Barack Obama said in his Saturday radio address, "We have to do everything we can to ensure that no crisis like this ever happens again."

That's a good start for policy. But averting future disasters is easier said than done. And it's not clear the plan offered by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn., would help. At best, it may do too little to minimize the danger. At worst, it could increase it.

The bill has some merits. It would require financial institutions to draft and regularly update plans for their orderly shutdown in case things go wrong. Certain risky activities would subject them to limits on leverage to lessen the danger. So far, so good.

The crux of the current disagreement is the plan, included in Dodd's proposed regulatory overhaul, to create a \$50 billion fund to cover any future bailouts. The idea is that major financial institutions would prepay the cost of such assistance, instead of getting a free ride from taxpayers.

But setting up such a fund may foster the very problem it seeks to prevent. If investors know that a firm is protected against failure, they will be willing to lend to it at lower rates—making it easier for the firm to grow, even if it is taking imprudent risks. The mere existence of the program would encourage such institutions to grow large enough that they are treated as "too big to fail."

The approach championed by Dodd—and opposed by most Republicans as well as the administration—would rely on federal regulators to avert such hazards. But it's always easy to identify an unsustainable speculative bubble after the fact. The feds didn't see or act to prevent the last bubble before the fact, and they're not likely to foresee the next one.

Any blueprint that puts faith in the ability of government employees to outthink the people they regulate is doomed to fail. A better idea comes from economist Allan Meltzer of the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University. He recently told a congressional committee that as firms grow beyond a specified size—say, \$10 billion in assets—they should be required "to increase their capital more than in proportion to the increase in their assets."

That change would achieve two things. First, it would discourage institutions from growing large enough to pose a broad danger, since because their costs would rise disproportionately. Second, it would greatly reduce the chance that such a large firm would ever fail because the extra capital would enhance its solvency.

This remedy would substitute simple, enforceable rules for the fallible judgment of human beings, both in and out of government. It would avoid creating incentives for reckless expansion.

The end result would be less chance that unwise decisions by private actors will reverberate to inflict severe costs on the economy and the taxpayers. That's a goal on which there is no disagreement.

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New NASA data show just how quickly the climate is changing. What can we do now?

It is about time to panic.

According to the NASA data, we have just experienced the hottest 12-month period in more than 100 years, which means that the last 12 months have been the hottest in at least the past 1,000 years.

What does this mean? Well, if global temperatures continue to rise at the rate that they have risen for the past generation, then the world of 2100 will see a world 4.1 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than the world of the 1970s. New York will get the climate of Washington. Los Angeles will get the climate of Tijuana.

But global warming might accelerate, especially if China, India and other industrializing powers continue to increase the amount of carbon dioxide they pour out. Perhaps the world by 2100 will be 9 degrees hotter than the world of the 1970s. That would give Washington the climate of Miami and Los Angeles the climate of Cabo San Lucas.

And we might get lucky. We might learn that the climate is in fact immensely stable on the upside. Even though past ice ages have ended quickly with very rapid warming, perhaps there are factors in the Earth's biosphere that allow it to soak up excess carbon dioxide quickly, like a sponge, and perhaps the world of 2100 will not be much warmer than the world of today. Or perhaps we will discover magical new energy technologies that are actually cheaper than our current technologies and will be rapidly adopted without the governments of the world lifting a finger to take action.

But that is not the prudent way to bet. The prudent thing to do is to plan, and to hedge: to plan for the most likely case, and to hedge by taking precautions—insurance—against the worst case. The world was supposed to plan how to deal with our global warming future at Kyoto. And then the world was supposed to plan for how to deal with our global warming future at Copenhagen. It did not do so.

So what do we do now?

Let us start with our global institutions. It is a fact that global warming is not likely to be a total human catastrophe here in California during the next 100 years. We will mourn the losses of our glaciers and our snowpack. We will lament the extinction of the polar bear, the coral reefs and the giant sequoias. We will be distressed at the transformation of California's Central Valley into the north Mojave Desert. But many San Franciscans really won't mind having the climate of Los Angeles. And many Angelenos will not be greatly distressed to have the climate of Tijuana. We will probably move a few miles north and relocate economic activity to get out of the paths of hurricanes and droughts. We will turn down our heaters and turn up our air conditioners. We will live our lives. It will be expensive for us to simply adapt, and it would be cheaper over the next century to deal with the problem. But here in California, there's

By J. BRADFORD DELONG
Los Angeles Times

J. Bradford DeLong is a professor of economics at U.C. Berkeley and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



little question we will be able to adapt without immediate human catastrophe for the next century.

That's not the case for Asia. China, India and their neighbors will soon have 3 billion peasants farming in the great river valleys of Asia. They depend on regular monsoon rains in the valleys and water flows down the channels of the Indus, the Ganges, the Mekong, the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers. Global climate change means that there will either be more precipitation in the valleys and feeding the rivers—or much less. If there is more, millions will die in floods, and the dwelling and working places of hundreds of millions will simply be washed away. The 3 billion are not rich enough to abandon their land and move away. They are also not rich enough to protect themselves. If there is much less water, hundreds of millions will die in famine and drought. Again, the peasant farming populations of Asia are not rich enough to abandon their land and move away. And they are also not rich enough to bring icebergs up from the Antarctic and pipe the water uphill from the sea to their farms.

The peasant farming populations are not rich enough to simply adapt. So the first thing we need to do is to beg the rulers of China and India to understand their nations' long-term interest.

But even if China and India understand and join the North Atlantic and the island nations of the Pacific in understanding the immensity of the long-run problem, that will not be enough. In the current international forum, China and India are simply two out of a 150 nations, and consensus is required. That is just too big a body with too many conflicting interests.

So the second thing we need to do is change the forum. We need a climate council made up of the seven governments that have the biggest power to influence the climate and the most at stake: the United States and the European Union, along with Japan, China, India, Indonesia and Brazil. Once the council has agreed to a treaty, it should be enforced by using aggressive and substantial trade sanctions against outsider countries that do not want to come up to the mark.

Utopian? Yes. Impractical? Probably. But what is the practical and realistic alternative that it would be better to push for?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Child neglect, child abuse

I watched a young boy in my neighborhood sit down one afternoon on a cinder block behind his family's rented shanty, waiting for his elders to come home. I was curious as to how long he was going to remain at that location. The time was way past after school and it looked like he did this often by the way he was comfortably seated, occasionally working on what might be academic class work.

At San Vicente Elementary School, we herded (quite literally, with the stern hand of a herder without the swat stick) children still in the schoolyard after 3pm to the school office so that their parents/guardians could be reminded that their children cannot remain on campus after school. There was no supervision provided except for those registered in one of the remedial or advanced after-school classes.

Two of the CNMI's April awareness foci are that on *autism* and *child abuse*. We've shared a few of our thoughts on autism, grounding my affinity to the subject on the fact that two of my children, a son who just turned 15 and a daughter about to turn 18, had been diagnosed with ASD, short-ripping a family covenant, and separating parents and children by 10 time zones.

Different but corollary to this is the reality of child abuse,

Letter to the Editor

If the shoe fits...

Please, stop considering yourself as sacrificial lambs or anything the government does as equivalent or comparable to stories from the Bible. Otherwise, this is how the story of your acts will be interpreted.

First, the austerity holiday, then the hour-a-day reduction. It seems, and looks, more likely comparable, theologically, to St. Peter's story. How many times must constituents be denied? It was sort of a relief to read that there is no intention of reintroducing or drafting another version of this House bill. Otherwise, it would definitely suit the story, it being almost the third time.

Oh, and thanks for the good act of passing the initiatives. Too bad, though, that now is when we need the sacrifices and not two years from now. At least for the next two years or until mid-term elections, you are all still protected, good thinking. The constituents are the unfortunate ones, easily sold off and ignored for the sake of party affiliation or the known fact of constitutional protection. This act is similar to that of Judas' story. Too bad, though, how Judas ended up, but it does not have to go that far, although...

With our leaders' actions or inaction, ideas or lack of, and perspective on the economic situation, especially with the disregard of constituents—there is definitely no lamb up there. They are all in it for themselves; constituents are the sacrifice. To say they are "passing the buck" is inaccurate; it is more like saving face. And now the administration must face the music. In the first place, who obligated all the unfunded personnel expenses? Who sat by and did nothing for so long? Who wasted taxpayer dollars in retainer fees? How ridiculous is that? And what did that achieve? Not a better economy that's for sure, not even a single, revenue generating, taxpaying miracle investor. All this...for casting our vote. It seems like we are a blind population being led by the blind and, even worse, hearing-impaired! The longer in office the deeper the hole gets.

Stop lingering in this cash strapped government mentality, it's getting boring. Finding different ways to legally strip us of our only income for survival will not fix this problem because no matter what way payroll costs are cut, hiring will continue. He is a man of his word, and probably the most honest politician, if it exists—consider the most recent act of commutation. Stop repealing existing laws to grant the government an excuse to ignore its liability and responsibility and start trying to live up to promises made. For sure that if during the campaigns last year it was part of the platform to cut salaries, those offices would be occupied differently today. Today is as is because of the success of a convincing campaign and promise for greener pasture. Why can't it happen? There must be some revenue generating activity out there, and it is your job to figure it out so start working. You will not get the cut in the next two years. A word of advice, check your campaign platforms from last election; maybe that will help refresh your memory of your promises.

Karla Cabrera
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

most evident in the physical violence that often accompany today's high incidences of adult anxiety, frustration and despair. We know more now of the characteristics of various anxiety syndromes after lessons learned from all kinds of post-trauma (disasters, wars, relational rifts, etc.) disorders. Island medical practitioner Bill Weiss in a recent article noted the high frequency of anxiety disorders on our islands.

Teachers are often privy to many instances of child abuse in the home, occasioned by eruptive rather than intentional bursts, leaving telltale evidence of physical violence on children who in turn develop defensive skills such as avoiding being at home as much as possible. The physical abuse is bad enough, but the debilitating psychological damage often lasts a lifetime, and sadly, the same pattern of abuse is then carried over to inflict the next generation.

My neighbor once allowed her 4-year old son to pee in front of a store without making a comment of admonition, let alone reprobation. She explained that until children reach the age of 5, they were considered babies and dealt with gently without much reproach, at least while a deed is being done, or immediately after the fact. Not that there is absence of parental teaching prior to the fifth year; it is just that misbehaviors are not condemned, and if an adult loses cool when a child errs or make a grievous mistake, it is the adult who loses face, she said.

Designating an age of innocence is common to all cultures. In our case, we followed the Victorian Age's chauvinistic deduction that ladies and children were inferior in matters of the flesh and morals, and were to be protected by civilized chivalry! Add the glut of farm labor joining American industry and we prolonged adolescence as much as possible before the emerging adults joined the workforce.

Never mind that the main characters in the tragic tale of *Romeo and Juliet* were 13 and 12 when they became adult lovers in the Bard's telling of the Italian family feud between the Capulet and the Montague. This is pertinent to those whose age of maturity was superseded by the Anglo-Saxon age of adult consent, reinforced by missionaries and civil law. It prolonged maturity to a later date and those males who would not contain their hormones are now felons for statutory rape.

I used to tell my 6th graders at the beginning of the school term that I would hate to live long enough to find out that they were grandparents at the age of 30, as some of their parents have become. Their hormones were full-blown at puberty and we are short of legitimate expressions for their curiosity and energy, especially

Today's census no longer just counts people

OAKLAND, Calif.—The Census Bureau's propaganda machine is in full gear! The news releases and advertisements tell us that the 2010 census is a national "civic event." By answering just 10 questions in 10 minutes you "help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed." And if you are lucky enough to receive the more intrusive American Community Survey—formerly the census long form—you allegedly assist in everything from job training for veterans to improving education for disabled children.

Oh yes: The Census Bureau also warns that "anyone over 18 years old who refuses or willfully neglects to complete the questionnaire or answer questions posed by census takers" could be fined from \$100 to \$5,000.

Surprisingly, most Americans seem little concerned about the confidentiality of census data or the nosiness of the GPS-toting census workers. They should be: some of what the government asks is none of the government's business.

Still, if Americans limit the information they provide to, say, name and address, they would be violating federal statutes and would be subject to penalties. The question remains whether these penalties have been enacted pursuant to Congress' delegated constitutional powers.

Article I, section 2 of the Constitution states that "Representatives ... shall be apportioned among the several States ... according to their respective Numbers." It further requires that "the actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct."

During the first census in 1790, assistant marshals listed the name of each head of household and counted people. The marshals did not pry into matters such as personal relationships, ownership status of the dwelling, educational status or health.

Even the Census Bureau concedes that the "first censuses in 1790 and 1800 were 'simple' counts of the population that fulfilled the U.S. Constitution's requirement."

The modern census, they aver, is a "tool enabling us to better understand the nation's inhabitants, their pursuits and activities,

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



in middle school; they develop hide-and-seek games played against the oversight of elders.

Add to that the corporal punishment of Iberian colonials, rationalized by Alemain overseers, methodically imposed by Nipponese lords, and encouraged by Spartan military traits of Uncle Sam's GI's and schoolmarm who admonish that "to spare the rod is to spoil the child," and we have a formula for all forms of violence inflicted on the helpless, particularly the vulnerable child, all in the name of discipline.

Incidences of child neglect and child abuse, I believe, have something to do with the dramatic unclarity of our images of the future, where hopes and dreams that were once part of our genetic and cultural inheritance, have since been upended by the ambiguity of an indeterminate existence. Around the world, lives are in a state of flux, shaped by the winds of change that are blowing wildly in our faces, to no fault of anyone in particular, mind you, but a component of awakened consciousness, of accelerated social revolutions, and a tectonic-paced biological evolution that has left all at the mercy of disoriented and dysfunctional neurology.

While there is no excuse for child abuse and child neglect (we condemn sexual molestation and coercive abuse by those in positions of authority), the onus of social responsibility is not on more punitive measures as it is in encouraging the role of the child as the holder of hope and deliverer of dreams, of enabling the female to sustain and maintain a group's well-being, and empowering the male's provision of connectedness and sense of belonging of a unit like a family to be a community's constitutive part. The issue is not about building social connections as it is building communities where people sense they belong, and have a sense of ownership of their social relatedness.

We may not prepare the future for our children, but we certainly can prepare our children for the future. Child abuse is humanity's neglect. Let us pay more attention to our humanness.

By WILLIAM J. WATKINS JR.

The Independent Institute

William J. Watkins Jr. is a research fellow specializing in constitutional law at The Independent Institute, 100 Swan Way, Oakland, Calif. 94621; Web site: www.independent.org.



and needs."

The text of the Constitution and history teach us that the purpose of the census is to apportion the number of seats in the House of Representatives, which in turn affects the number of electoral votes allotted to each state in the Electoral College. The meaning of "enumeration" is no mystery; it is simply a catalog or list.

A "count" is all that is constitutionally necessary and permitted. It is all that was undertaken by the generation that wrote the Constitution.

To the extent that Congress has authorized fines for anything beyond (1) a person's refusal to provide his name, and (2) actions designed to frustrate the count, Congress has exceeded the boundaries of the Constitution.

In the words of James Madison, "the powers of the federal government are enumerated; it can only operate in certain cases; it has legislative powers on defined and limited objects, beyond which it cannot extend its jurisdiction."

It follows that if the power to conduct a census is limited to counting the population, Congress lacks the power to criminalize conduct beyond the scope of that activity, as when it fines Americans who refuse to disclose more than the constitutionally required information.






Of course, Congress might have good reasons for desiring more than a mere enumeration. But it is their burden to make that case to the American people and seek to amend the Constitution.

Until that happens, Congress tears the fabric of our fundamental law when it penalizes people for declining to disclose personal information to the Census Bureau.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼75
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼80

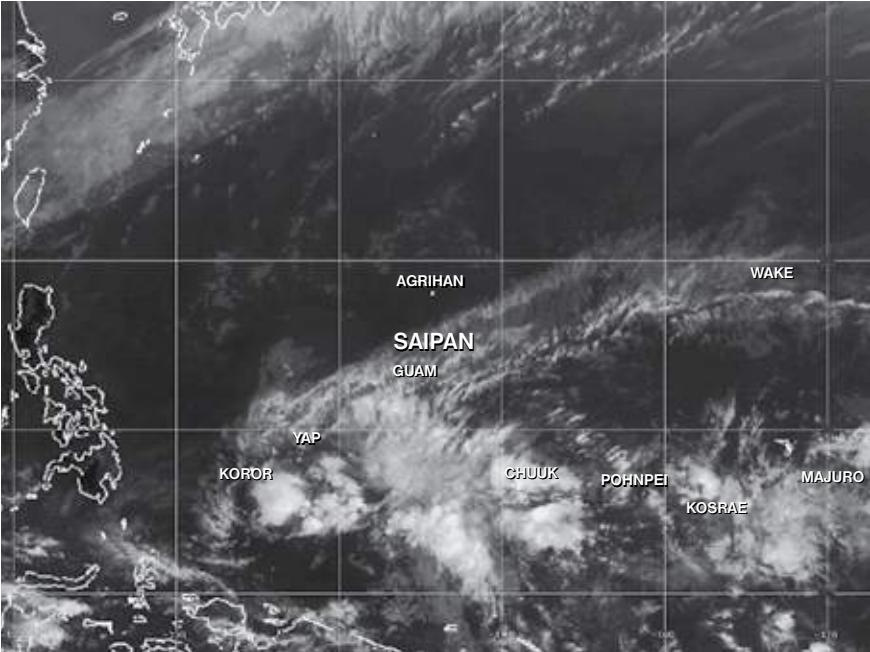
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼59
Beijing	Showers	▲55 ▼39
Hong Kong	Showers	▲74 ▼61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼50
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼46
Paris	Sunny	▲71 ▼43
Pusan	Cloudy	▲61 ▼48
Rome	Showers	▲68 ▼53
Salem	Showers	▲57 ▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲66 ▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲64 ▼43
Tokyo	Sunny	▲62 ▼46
Washington, DC	Showers	▲66 ▼57

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation near 6N139E then southeastward to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are between 4N and 8N from 136E to 142E. Converging trade winds northeast of the trough are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Guam to near Chuuk southwestward to the equator in an area from 11N140E to 12N146E to 5N156E to EQ148E back to 11N140E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Pohnpei across Kosrae and the southern Marshall Islands in an area from 7N157E to 6N180 to EQ166E back to 7N157E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:29 PM	2:18 AM
Sunday	3:26 PM	3:01 AM
Monday	4:23 PM	3:44 AM
Tuesday	5:21 PM	4:28 AM
Wednesday	6:20 PM	5:14 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
 - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM						GUAM-ROTA (ROP)					
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5			C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily		
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily			C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily			DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily		
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6			CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS		
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM		
						OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau			C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3, 5 via GUM-Palau		
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM			C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM						via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services																										
CATHOLIC																										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm																										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm																										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm																										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am																										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm																										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm																										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm																										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm																										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm																										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am																										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm																										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism																										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am																										
PROTESTANT																										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm																										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm																										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm																										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm																										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions																										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm																										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)																										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158																										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal																										
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)																										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday																										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm																										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)																										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm																										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm																										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620																										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm																										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)																										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm																										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm																										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm																										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship												
	9am	Sunday school																								
	10am	Regular worship																								
	6pm	worship																								
Wednesday	7pm	worship																								
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism																										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer <table><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr><tr><td>Koblerville</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Prayer meeting</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Tagalog service</td></tr><tr><td>Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gualo Rai, Saipan</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>				7am-9am	English service		7am-9am	Sunday school		10am-12noon	English service,	Koblerville			Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting	Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service	Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church			Gualo Rai, Saipan		
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Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S																										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 24, 2000

Teno seeks overhaul of budget law

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked lawmakers to overhaul the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act to ensure that the government’s cash resources are spent wisely by departments and agencies amid diminishing revenue collections. Noting that budget requests by each department or agency have consistently increased despite downward revenue projections, he said these figures do not necessarily reflect efficiency in the delivery of public services. Finance officials had received about \$75.4 million in new additional budget requests under the FY 2001 proposed spending package, but most of the appeals were rejected due to the limited resources.

US urged to include NMI families in federal home financing program

The CNMI government is seeking the inclusion of indigenous Northern Marianas residents in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program aimed at assisting Native Americans obtain guaranteed home mortgage from private financial institutions. The move came following disclosure from the Commonwealth Development Authority that the exclusive right to own a land granted by the CNMI Constitution to people of Chamorro and Carolinian origin hamper the growth of real estate financing in the Northern Marianas. Three programs that are now being implemented by the federal housing department provide guaranteed home loan assurance to Native American-Indians, Alaskans and Hawaiians.

April 24, 2001

Higher port traffic spur growth

Local leaders yesterday acknowledged the significant contributions of the shipping industry to the overall efforts to alleviate the Commonwealth’s economic conditions which suffered a blow from the 1997 Asian crisis. For the past four years, the Port of Saipan played host to about 59 United States military vessels that berthed on the multi-million harbor for days of rest and recreation stopover. In 1997 and 1998, only four military ships—the USS Thatch and USS Juneau which anchored at Charlie Dock and USS Blue Ridge and USS San Jose that moored at the North Baker Dock respectively—called the Port of Saipan.

CPA to renew talks with Mandarin Air

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will renew negotiations with Mandarin Airlines for the possible reinstatement of the Saipan-Taipei flights, in efforts to diversify the islands’ tourism market. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the agency is hoping to negotiate with Mandarin Air officials in either May or June, in line with the ports authority’s planned roundtable discussion with representatives from airline companies. Salas said the CPA would launch a series of discussions with airline companies, as well as come up with its own promotional efforts, to entice more foreign carriers to provide air transport services to the Northern Marianas.

April 24, 2002

‘This gov’t supports equal employment for all’

Underscoring its commitment to the principles of equal employment, the Babauta administration has directed the creation of an equal employment opportunity organization in each department, activity and autonomous agency within the Executive Branch. Such an organization will be tasked to establish its own equal employment opportunity program and structure that would provide an administrative procedure for settling complaints of employment discrimination, harassment, or coercion. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said this is in line with the intent of the CNMI Equal Employment Opportunity Program, which requires that nondiscrimination be exercised in all government employment practices.

Lawmakers mull limited immunity for illegal aliens

Faced with an increasing number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth, the House Subcommittee on Labor and Immigration is mulling once more the idea of granting limited immunity to overstaying nonresident workers to enable them to return to the fold of the law. Subcommittee Chair Herman T. Palacios has introduced a measure, House Bill 13-103, which would provide the period of limited immunity for illegal aliens so they can report themselves to the Department of Labor and Immigration and become lawfully employed in the CNMI. The measure would also safeguard these aliens from prosecution for their prior illegal status once they present themselves before DOLI.

Business

Continental introduces Island Hopper fare sale

HAGATNA, Guam—Continental Airlines proudly announced the largest fare sale in history for the islands of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kwajalein, and Majuro. Fare discounts are as much as 20-percent off the lowest resident fare and apply not only for travel between these islands, but also for travel to Guam and Honolulu.

“This unprecedented fare sale on the Island Hopper route is an example of Continental’s commitment to increasing travel between the communities we serve throughout the islands,” stated David Kendell, Continental Micronesia’s Director of Sales & Marketing. “We encourage all residents to take advantage of this unique opportunity to save money on both business and personal travel throughout the islands.”

The Continental Airlines island hopper fare sale is valid for travel starting today through May 31, 2010. Sale fares are subject to a fuel surcharge of up to \$120 each way and do not include taxes and PFC charges of as much as \$60 per ticket. Tickets must be issued at least one day prior to scheduled departure or one day after reservations are made (whichever is earlier), but no later than May 15, 2010. Travel is valid only on flights CO956, 957, 958 and 959 with a minimum three (3) day stay and maximum stay of 45 days. All segments must be confirmed at time of ticketing and open return is not permitted. OnePass upgrades and mileage accruals are applicable. Any changes to the itinerary may be made prior to scheduled flights at a \$75 administrative service fee and subject to availability and new fare conditions. Changes requested after departure of the originally scheduled flight are not permitted. Tickets are non-refundable.

All flights are operated on Continental Micronesia’s Boeing 737-700/800 series aircraft. **(PR)**

SEC staffers watched porn as economy crashed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senior staffers at the Securities and Exchange Commission spent hours surfing pornographic websites on government-issued computers while they were being paid to police the financial system, an agency watchdog says.

The SEC’s inspector general conducted 33 probes of employees looking at explicit images in the past five years, according to a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The memo says 31 of those probes occurred in the 2 1/2 years since the financial system teetered and nearly crashed.

The staffers’ behavior violated government-wide ethics rules, it says.

It was written by SEC Inspector General David Kotz in response to a request from Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.

The memo was first reported Thursday evening by ABC News. It summarizes past inspector general probes and reports some shocking findings:

- A senior attorney at the SEC’s Washington headquarters spent up to eight hours a day looking at and downloading pornography. When he ran out of hard drive space, he burned the files to CDs or DVDs, which he kept in boxes around his office. He agreed to resign, an earlier watchdog report said.
- An accountant was blocked more than 16,000 times in a month from visiting websites classified as “Sex” or “Pornography.” Yet he still managed to amass a collection of “very graphic” material on his hard drive by using Google images to bypass the SEC’s internal filter, according to an earlier report from the inspector general. The accountant refused to testify in his defense, and received a 14-day suspension.
- Seventeen of the employees were “at a senior level,” earning salaries of up to \$222,418.
- The number of cases jumped from two in 2007 to 16 in 2008. The cracks in the financial system emerged in mid-2007 and spread into full-blown panic by the fall of 2008.

California Rep. Darrell Issa, the top Republican on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, said it was “disturbing that high-ranking officials within the SEC were spending more time looking at porn than taking action to help stave off the events that put our nation’s economy on the brink of collapse.”

He said in a statement that SEC officials “were preoccupied with other distractions” when they should have been overseeing the growing problems in the financial system.

An SEC spokesman declined to comment Thursday night.

About 16 percent of men with Internet access at work admit to looking at online porn while at the office, according to a 2006 survey by Websense Inc.

Former SEC spokesman Michael Robinson said he shares the public’s outrage about SEC staffers who enjoyed porn on the taxpayer dime when they were supposed to be keeping the markets safe.

Nation

Burning oil rig sinks, setting stage for big spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A deepwater oil platform that burned for more than a day after a massive explosion sank into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday, creating the potential for a major spill as it underscored the slim chances that the 11 workers still missing survived.

The sinking of the Deepwater Horizon, which burned violently until the gulf itself extinguished the fire, could unleash more than 300,000 of gallons of crude a day into the water. The environmental hazards would be greatest if the spill were to reach the Louisiana coast, some 50 miles away.

Crews searched by air and water for the missing workers, hoping they had managed to reach a lifeboat, but one relative said family members have been told it's unlikely any of the missing survived Tuesday night's blast. The Coast Guard found two lifeboats but no one was inside. More than 100 workers escaped the explosion and fire; four were critically injured.

Carolyn Kemp of Monterey, La., said her grandson, Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, was among the missing. She said he would have been on the drilling platform when it exploded.

"They're assuming all those men who were on the platform are dead," Kemp said. "That's



In this aerial photo taken Wednesday, April 21, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig burns.

the last we've heard."

Jed Kersey, of Leesville, La., said his 33-year-old son, John, had finished his shift on the rig floor and was sleeping when the explosion occurred. He said his son told him that all 11 missing workers were on the rig floor at the time of the explosion.

"He said it was like a war zone," said Jed Kersey, a former offshore oil worker.

An alarm sounded and the

electricity went out, sending John Kersey and other workers scurrying to a lifeboat that took them to a nearby service boat, his father said.

"They waited for as many people as they could," Jed Kersey said. He added that his son wasn't ready to talk publicly about his experience.

As the rig burned, supply vessels shot water into it to try to keep it afloat and avoid an oil spill, but

there were additional explosions Thursday. Officials had previously said the environmental damage appeared minimal, but new challenges have arisen now that the platform has sunk.

The well could be spilling up to 336,000 gallons of crude oil a day, Coast Guard Petty Officer Katherine McNamara said. She said she didn't know whether the crude oil was spilling into the gulf. The rig also carried

700,000 gallons of diesel fuel, but that would likely evaporate if the fire didn't consume it.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said crews saw a 1-mile-by-5-mile rainbow sheen with a dark center of what appeared to be a crude oil mix on the surface of the water. She said there wasn't any evidence crude oil was coming out after the rig sank, but officials also aren't sure what's going on underwater. They have dispatched a vessel to check.

The oil will do much less damage at sea than it would if it hits the shore, said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network.

"If it gets landward, it could be a disaster in the making," Sarthou said.

Doug Helton, incident operations coordinator for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's office of response and restoration, said the spill is not expected to come onshore in the next three to four days. "But if the winds were to change, it could come ashore more rapidly," he said.

At the worst-case figure of 336,000 gallons a day, it would take more than a month for the amount of crude oil spilled to equal the 11 million gallons spilled from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom accused of killing son in NY asks for bail

NEW YORK (AP)—A millionaire accused of killing her autistic 8-year-old son in a posh New York City hotel is poised to find out whether she can get out of jail to await trial. A judge is expected to decide Friday on Gigi Jordan's \$5 million bail request. The former pharmaceuticals executive suggests the court cut off her access to her money and hire security guards to keep her from leaving her Manhattan town house. Prosecutors still fear she might flee. Jordan has pleaded not guilty to murder in the February death of Jude Michael Mirra at the Peninsula Hotel. Authorities say she apparently tried to kill herself. But prosecutors now say she may have staged a suicide attempt.

Man arrested in death of Miss. white supremacist

PEARL, Miss. (AP)—A white supremacist lawyer with a knack for publicity was found stabbed to death in a burning house on Thursday and Mississippi authorities later said a neighbor had been charged with murder. Rankin County Sheriff Ronnie Pennington said Richard Barrett's body was found just after 8 a.m. after residents reported smoke coming from his house in a rural area outside a Jackson, Miss., suburb. Pennington told The Associated Press that Vincent McGee, 22, has been charged with murder in the case. Additional charges could be forthcoming. Pennington said, including arson.

Sea lion pup found on Southern Calif. rooftop deck

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Mike Kai thought one of his surfing buddies was thumping around on his rooftop deck, but it turned out to be a wayward sea lion pup, enjoying the view of Newport Beach at sunrise. Kai said he couldn't imagine how the pinniped made it up the stairs and onto the roof early Thursday. While Kai called Animal Control, the pup showed off, wiggling along a railing on his belly, two stories above the ground. The sea lion was taken to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, where volunteers named him Fiddler, after the Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

Ariz. lawmakers: Candidates must prove citizenship

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona lawmakers expressing doubt over whether President Barack Obama was born in the United States are pushing a bill through the Legislature that would require the president to show his birth certificate to get on the state's 2012 ballot.

The House passed the measure Wednesday on a 31-29 vote, ignoring protests from opponents who said it's casting Arizona in an ugly light and could give the elected secretary of state broad powers to kick a presidential candidate off the ballot.

"We're becoming a national joke," Rep. Chad Campbell, a Phoenix Democrat who opposes the measure, said Thursday.

The measure's sponsor, Republican Rep. Judy Burges of Skull Valley, said she isn't sure Obama could prove his eligibility for the ballot in Arizona and wants to erase all doubts.

"You have half the population who thinks everything is fine, and you have the other half of the population who has had doubts built up in their mind," Burges said.

Report: Health overhaul will increase nation's tab

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law will increase the nation's health care tab instead of bringing costs down, government economic forecasters concluded Thursday in a sobering assessment of the sweeping legislation.

A report by economic experts at the Health and Human Services Department said the health care remake will achieve Obama's aim of expanding health insurance—adding 34 million Ameri-

cans to the coverage rolls.

But the analysis also found that the law falls short of the president's twin goal of controlling runaway costs, raising projected spending by about 1 percent over 10 years. That increase could get bigger, however, since the report also warned that Medicare cuts in the law may be unrealistic and unsustainable, forcing lawmakers to roll them back.

The mixed verdict for Obama's signature issue is the first comprehensive look by neutral experts.

In particular, the warnings about Medicare could become a major political liability for Democratic lawmakers in the midterm elections. The report projected that Medicare cuts could drive about 15 percent of hospitals and other institutional providers into the red, "possibly jeopardizing access" to care for seniors.

The report from Medicare's Office of the Actuary carried a disclaimer saying it does not represent the official position of the Obama administration.

White House officials have repeatedly complained that such analyses have been too pessimistic and lowball the law's potential to achieve savings.

The report acknowledged that some of the cost-control measures in the bill—Medicare cuts, a tax on high-cost insurance and a commission to seek ongoing Medicare savings—could help reduce the rate of cost increases beyond 2020. But it held out little hope for progress in the first decade.

2 Americans jailed in Iran reportedly in poor health

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Two of three American hikers jailed in Iran for nearly nine months are in poor health and told Swiss diplomats—their first outside visitors since October—that they were considering a hunger strike, their mothers said late Thursday.

Sarah Shourd, who is being held alone in a cell, is suffering a serious gynecological condition and battling depression, while Shane Bauer has a stomach ailment, their mothers told The Associated Press.

Shourd, Bauer and Josh Fattal met earlier Thursday with the diplomats, who represent U.S. interests in the absence of a U.S.-Iran diplomatic relationship, at Evin Prison in Tehran. But they were



given few details of their medical conditions. "I'm really alarmed," said Nora Shourd, who lives in Oakland, Calif. "I'm alarmed for Sarah's health. I think she needs immediate care."

The three University of California at Berkeley graduates were detained July 31, after apparently straying into Iran while hiking in

a scenic part of Iraq. This month, Iran's intelligence minister accused them of having links to U.S. intelligence services, which their families said was absurd.

Iranian officials have suggested each will be prosecuted, but no trial has been set. Although their families hired an Iranian attorney, he has not been

allowed to see them.

Bauer and Fattal, who are both 27, and Shourd, 31, had been allowed no sympathetic visitors in months, though they were allowed to call their mothers in early March. The calls lasted about a minute.

Their mothers were heartened that the Swiss diplomats were allowed a 40-minute visit. They were told their children have been allowed to receive letters from family and friends, and were given access to books from the prison's library, the diplomats told their families. The three were told of efforts by their families to secure their release and that their mothers applied for visas to try to visit them in prison.

Asia

Attacks in Bangkok kill at least 1 amid standoff

BANGKOK (AP)—Security forces and agitated protesters faced off at a major intersection Friday after deadly grenade attacks rattled Thailand's chaotic capital—a scene of tense, week-long confrontations between die-hard demonstrators and a wavering government.

The late-night attacks killed at least one person and wounded 86, according to the government's Erawan Emergency Center, which handles victim counts in crises and disasters. Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban had said three had died. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting accounts.

The attackers shot five M-79 grenades from near where anti-government Red Shirt protesters have been encamped and the blasts struck areas where counter-demonstrators gathered, but the government stopped short of directly blaming the Red Shirts for the attack.

Thousands of mostly rural Red Shirts have been entrenched on Bangkok's streets since March 12 in a campaign to dissolve Parliament and hold immediate elections, and Thailand's powerful military has warned them that time is running out to clear the streets or face a crackdown.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced concern that the situation could escalate and called for dialogue, his spokesman said.

The violence occurred in Bangkok's financial district where soldiers have been stationed near a key intersection heading to an upscale hotel-and-shopping zone, where Red Shirts have built barricades of tires and bamboo stakes. Suthep urged people demonstrating against the Red Shirts to leave the area for their own safety.

A tense calm returned Friday to the financial district, where many shops and banks closed

and some bore shattered windows from the overnight blasts.

Silom Road, the district's main thoroughfare, is also a popular tourist destination, filled with restaurants and some of Bangkok's most popular nightlife venues. But late Thursday, it looked more like a war zone with grenade blasts light-



Trouble in Thailand

Supporters of ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra have been protesting against Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, demanding that he resign and call elections.

At a glance

Population 66 million (2009 estimate); 75 percent Thai; 14 percent Chinese; 11 percent other

GDP per person \$8,100; primarily industry and services

Government Constitutional monarchy

Brief history Kingdom known as Siam until 1939; bloodless revolution led to constitutional monarchy in 1932; never taken over by a European power

Yellow Shirts vs. Red Shirts

2006 Yellow Shirts protest to oust Thaksin

December 2006 Thaksin ousted in coup

December 2007 Thaksin allies win elections

September 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy buildings, clash with pro-Thaksin Red Shirts

Key events in current conflict

November 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy airports

December 2008 Thaksin-allied government falls, Abhisit forms government

April 2009 Red Shirts protest ASEAN summit, clash with Yellow Shirts

March 2010 Red Shirts try to bring down government

Source: CIA World Factbook, BBC, ESRI

Graphic: Pat Carr

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ing the night sky and panicked people fleeing the scene. Some rushed the bloodied wounded to safety as throngs of riot police and armed soldiers swarmed the area.

A protest leader, Nattawut Saikua, said he spent the night in talks with Deputy Prime Minister Korbak Sabhavas, but that there appeared to be no resolution to the crisis.

At dawn, police and soldiers stood guard at the mouth of Silom, while across the intersection, Red Shirts screamed slogans and brandished sharpened bamboo staves. Bangkok's elevated train service and subway shut down stops in protest-affected areas.

for the impoverished nation but which were suspended after a North Korean soldier shot a South Korean tourist to death in 2008. South Korea has refused to restart tours until its demands for a joint investigation into the death are carried out.

Commission proposes limited commercial whale hunts

TOKYO (AP)—The International Whaling Commission has proposed the first legal commercial whale hunts in 25 years, setting strict quotas but ending an outright ban that had many exceptions. Japan, Norway and Iceland are the main nations that have continued hunts under those exceptions, and small indigenous groups also hunt in limited numbers. The proposal released late Thursday night would replace the worldwide ban with strict quotas and would let the group strictly monitor all whaling. The proposal is an attempted compromise between whaling nations and others such as the U.S. and Australia in the camp that has long been staunchly opposed to whaling. The commission argues that allowing whaling under strict quotas would be an improvement to the current hunts, over which it has no control.

World

Suit: Vatican No. 2 got letter from abuse victim

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A neatly typed letter dated March 5, 1995, is addressed to the No. 2 man at the Vatican and recounts the story of a priest who preyed on deaf boys trapped in dormitories with no chance of escape.

The letter to Cardinal Angelo Sodano from one of the Rev. Lawrence Murphy's alleged victims is more evidence for those

trying to learn what Vatican officials knew about abuse claims at St. John's School for the Deaf outside Milwaukee and when.

The document was revealed Thursday in yet another lawsuit aimed at the highest reaches of the Roman Catholic Church. It's also significant because it involves Sodano, a strong defender of Pope Benedict XVI's

handling of the global clergy sexual abuse crisis and a man whose own record on a separate high-profile case has come under scrutiny.

The Vatican's U.S.-based attorney, Jeffrey Lena, said in a statement Thursday that the lawsuit was a publicity stunt with no merit and it rehashes theories already rejected by U.S. courts.

European airlines press to get everyone home

BRUSSELS (AP)—European airports sent thousands of planes into the sky Thursday after a week of unprecedented disruptions, with airlines piling on more flights and bigger planes to try to get as many people home as possible.

Nearly all of the continent's 28,000 scheduled flights, including more than 300 trans-Atlantic routes, were going ahead. Every plane was packed, however, as airlines squeezed in some of the hundreds of thousands who had been stranded for days among passengers with regular Thursday tickets.

Airlines said, despite their efforts, there was no quick and easy solution to cut down the backlog of passengers. "Quite frankly we don't have an answer to this," said David Henderson, spokesman for the Association of European Airlines, which predicted it would take several days to get all stranded passengers to their destinations. "We don't know where they are and in what numbers, so we would expect it will go on into the early part of next week."

Shifting winds sent a new

plume of volcanic ash over Scandinavia, forcing some airports to close again. The new airspace restrictions applied to parts of northern Scotland, southern Norway, Sweden and Finland, said Kyla Evans, spokeswoman for Eurocontrol, the European air traffic agency.

Some oil rig workers were trapped Thursday on platforms in the North Sea because helicopters were grounded.

A week of airspace closures caused by the ash threat to planes created the worst breakdown in civil aviation in Europe since World War II. More than 100,000 flights were canceled and airlines are on track to lose over \$2 billion. The aviation crisis that began with an April 14 volcanic eruption in Iceland left millions of passengers in limbo and sparked calls for a wholesale reform of Europe's air traffic system.

Some travelers got a break. Authorities chartered a luxury cruise ship—the Celebrity Eclipse—to pick up 2,200 tourists in the northern Spanish port of Bilbao on Thursday and bring them back to England.

Alleged top drug dealer caught near Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Troops battled a suspected drug gang in a wealthy neighborhood on the outskirts of Mexico City and captured an alleged major trafficker with a \$2 million U.S. bounty on his head, officials announced on Thursday.

Jose Gerardo Alvarez Vazquez—known as "El Indio" or "El Chayan"—is suspected of being responsible for a spike in violence in states near the capital as part of a struggle for control of the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, the military and the federal Attorney General's Office said.

Authorities said Alvarez Vazquez, 45, was arrested along with 14 other suspected drug traffickers during a Wednesday night shootout in Huixquilucan, just west of the capital.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel rejects US calls for east Jerusalem freeze

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Thursday rejected U.S. calls to halt construction in disputed east Jerusalem, clouding a new peace mission by Washington's Mideast envoy. Benjamin Netanyahu's comments were broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 TV shortly after envoy George Mitchell arrived for his first visit in six weeks. Mitchell's efforts had been on hold due to disagreements over east Jerusalem, the section of the holy city claimed by Israel and the Palestinians. "I am saying one thing. There will be no freeze in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said. "There should be no preconditions to talks." Although Netanyahu was repeating his long-standing position, the timing of the statement threatened to undermine Mitchell's latest efforts to restart peace talks. Mark Regev, an Israeli government spokesman, denied earlier reports that Israel had officially rejected an American demand for a settlement freeze in Jerusalem.

Colombia cardinal defends church's abuse policies

BOGOTA (AP)—A senior cardinal defended the Roman Catholic Church's practice of frequently not reporting sexual abusive priests to the police, saying Thursday it would have been like testifying against a family member at trial. Colombian Cardinal Dario

Castrillon Hoyos also said in a radio interview that Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was involved in a 2001 decision to praise a French bishop for shielding a priest who was convicted of raping minors. "The law in nations with a well-developed judiciary does not force anyone to testify against a child, a father, against other people close to the suspect," Castrillon told RCN radio. "Why would they ask that of the church? That's the injustice. It's not about defending a pedophile, it's about defending the dignity and the human rights of a person, even the worst of criminals."

Armenia freezes Turkey pact ratification

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—Armenia is freezing its ratification of an agreement to normalize ties with Turkey and reopen their shared border, the Armenian president said Thursday—dealing a setback to efforts to end the countries' long-standing enmity. Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1993 to protest the Armenia-backed war by separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh region; the region is an enclave within Azerbaijan but under the control of Armenian and ethnic Armenian forces. The border closure exacerbated tensions already high over the issue of whether the killing of up to 1.5 million Armenians during the final days of the Ottoman Empire amounted to genocide.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China says monks advised to leave quake area

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities said Friday that Buddhist monks had been advised to leave an earthquake zone in a Tibetan region because specialized personnel were needed for reconstruction work, rejecting accusations that they had been told to leave for political reasons. The death toll from last week's earthquake rose to 2,187, with schoolchildren accounting for some 200 deaths. The State Council, China's Cabinet, issued a statement in response to The Associated Press' questions about why Tibetan monks were told this week to leave Yushu county, the epicenter of the quake in a remote corner of western Qinghai province.

NKorea says it will seize 5 SKorean assets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Friday it will confiscate five South Korean-owned properties at a jointly-operated mountain resort in the isolated communist country, a development likely to worsen already-soured relations. North Korea has been demanding that the South resume tours to the facility, which had been a key source of foreign currency earnings

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 24, 2010

AS MAY 10 DEADLINE NEARS,

RP consul to voters: Don't wait for last day

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many voters troop to RP Consulate on weekends

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig appealed to Filipino absentee voters yesterday not to wait for the May 10 deadline to turn in their accomplished ballots. As this developed, many voters have started dropping by the Consulate in Susupe, particularly during weekends, to turn in their ballots.

The last day of voting is on May 10.

Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* that they will convene a meeting of the electoral board this Sunday, from 2pm to 5pm. The chairman of the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group in the CNMI is Romeo Garchitorena. The members are Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta and Lauren Arce.

Macaraig said the meeting includes members of the Filipino community that the Commission on Election has approved to help the Consulate's staff in counting and canvassing the votes.

"We are calling them to a meeting on Sunday. We are now in full blown preparation," Macaraig said.

With less than three weeks before the May 10 deadline for this year's voters to submit their accomplished ballots, the Consulate has started to entertain large numbers of voters, particularly last weekend.

Macaraig said voters should not wait for the May 10 deadline because it may only prolong the process.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Two Filipino absentee voters review the list of this year's election candidates in the Philippines before they turn in the accomplished ballots at the Philippine Consulate's office in Susupe.

"So hopefully we don't wait for the last day. If you already have a candidate in mind, please do vote and send the accomplished ballots back to the Consulate as soon as possible," he said.

Macaraig noted that last weekend many voters came in so he decided to open a new section of the Consulate to accommodate all of them.

On regular days, the Consulate receives only an average of 30 to 40 ballots, but last Saturday and Sunday there were 63 and 117 respectively.

Macaraig said the number of ballots they've received so far is very minimal

compared to the 7,169 registered Filipino voters they have on their list. He said that some of these voters might have already gone back to the Philippines.

As of Thursday, a total of 515 accomplished votes were turned in, and 1,235 ballots were given out. Only a few ballots were put in the boxes labeled as "invalid" and "questionable."

"We are now on our second box. Every box containing valid ballots should have only 250 ballots. Probably yesterday [Thursday] the second box was already filled," Macaraig said.

He said Comelec wants boxes with

250 ballots sealed until the counting.

"We're getting there. Hopefully in the last few days more voters will come in because they already know whom they will vote for," he said.

"So far so good; the system is okay," Macaraig said, adding that last voters of the day have been very willing to serve as witnesses during the segregation of votes after the closing time at 4pm to 5pm.

With respect to Filipino voters on Rota and Tinian, Macaraig said they have begun receiving a few ballots from them, but that they are also ap-

pealing to them to call the Consulate so they can make the arrangements in mailing the ballots package and for them to mail the ballots.

He said Rota and Tinian voters will also spend for postage stamps.

During weekdays, the Consulate is open from 9am to 5pm. On weekends, the Consulate is open from 8am to 4pm. On May 10, they are open from 8am to 8pm.

There are 7,169 registered Filipino voters in the CNMI. But the actual number of those who will vote will be much lower due to the many workers who have already left the CNMI.

During the first day of overseas absentee voting on April 10, a total of 36 voters on Saipan submitted their ballots to the Consulate.

The ballots contain the names of 10 candidates for president, 8 candidates for vice president, 61 candidates for senator, and 187 party lists.

Voters, particularly those on Tinian and Rota, have the option to send their ballots by mail to the Philippine Consulate General at P.O. Box 500731 Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 CNMI, USA.

Absentee voters who cannot personally pick up their ballots may call the Consulate at 234-1848 to make arrangements on the method of claiming their ballots.

The counting of votes will be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza on May 10 at 8pm.

The results of the overseas absentee voting will be brought by the chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers to the Philippine Senate and the Comelec in Manila.

Consulate gearing up for projects for OFWs

The Philippine Consulate General is gearing up for a couple of activities for Filipinos in the CNMI, according to Rey Tayag of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Tayag said that the Consulate, in partnership with POLO, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, will soon launch a project that intends to complement existing training programs by POLO and OWWA.

This project also aims to provide an alternative for Filipino overseas workers in the CNMI, said Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig. He declined to specify the project until everything is finalized.

Aside from this project, the Consulate office is already planning on the activities for this year's Independence Day celebration. Macaraig said that they are already looking at cutting down the expenses for the celebration. "It will be austere but meaningful," Macaraig assures. (*Saipan Tribune*)

How do OFW families spend remittance money?

By **JUN BURGOS**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—A study recently released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provides an informative and substantially probing picture of how families of overseas Filipino workers spend their remittance money.

The study, entitled "Remittances and Household Behavior in the Philippines," was conducted and written by Filipino Alvin Ang, Indian Shikha Jha, and Indonesian Guntur Sugiyarto based on their analysis of data from the 2000, 2003, and 2006 Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) reports of the National Statistics Office.

The authors noted that some 18.05 percent of all Filipino households received cash from abroad in the year 2000, and this rose to 20.72 percent in 2003 and then to 23.3 percent in 2006.

From the data, the authors observed that more families of OFWs were

spending less on food and more on health, with the percentage share of expenditures of migrant households on food down slightly from 44.9 percent in 2000 to 43.3 percent in 2006, while expenditures on health increased from 2.3 percent in 2000 to 3 percent.

Allocations for durables, they said, were found to be steady at 2.2 percent from 2000 to 2006, while fairly stable were those for education (4.5 percent in 2000 to 4.4 percent in 2006), and for housing operations (2.0 percent in 2000 to 2.1 percent in 2006).

They noted though that spending of OFW families for transportation and communication (including cellphone expenses) increased from 6.2 percent in 2000 to 7.2 percent in 2006.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported that remittance inflows to the

Philippines in 2009 reached \$17.348 billion, equivalent to some 11-12 percent of the gross domestic product, with the country being the third biggest recipient of workers' remittances.

In its 2008 and 2009 reports, the BSP noted increasing savings and investments by OFW families largely in banks, other financial instruments and real estate—an

observation regarded as a big improvement from earlier reports describing OFW fam-

ilies as using a large part of their money on "unproductive expenses."

According to the BSP, the percentage of households that allotted portions of remittances to savings increased to 40 percent in the first quarter of 2009, compared with only 35.8 percent in the fourth quarter 2008 survey.

The bank added that there was also a slight increase in the number of OFW

families that set aside money for investments, from 4.7 percent in the previous quarter to 5.9 percent in 2009.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo has said, "In a sense, the greater proportion of remittances recipients' saving and investing is good for the economy because the multiplier effects can be significant in the future.... savings and investments increase the pool of resources available to both households and corporate borrowers for their credit needs. That helps sustain economic activity."

The billions of dollars of annual OFW remittances have greatly contributed to our country's economy and have actually been credited for "saving" it in many instances already, especially during hard times.

It is best for the government as well as the private sector to expand their service to the OFWs and their families in terms of assisting them on how to make the most benefits out of their hard-earned money.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P44.4

Arroyo ratings drop to lowest since 2001

By HELEN FLORES
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

MANILA, Philippines—Nearly six of every 10 Filipinos or 59 percent disapprove of President Arroyo's performance, her highest disapproval score since March 2001, according to a survey by Pulse Asia.

"The current overall approval score of President Arroyo is the lowest she has received since becoming president in January 2001," Pulse Asia said in a statement.

"Back in July 2005, at the height of the 'Hello, Garci' controversy, 58 percent of Filipinos expressed disapproval for President Arroyo's work," Pulse Asia said.

Pulse Asia conducted its Ulat ng Bayan survey from March 21 to 28.

An earlier survey, conducted by the Social Weather Stations, showed Arroyo's satisfaction rating falling to an all-time low of -53, the lowest achieved by a

Philippine president since 1986.

Pulse Asia said Arroyo's overall approval rating dropped by seven percentage points while her disapproval score rose by eight points between October 2009 and March 2010.

Public ambivalence toward Arroyo's performance in the past quarter was most pronounced in Class ABC (34 percent) and Eastern Visayas (38 percent).

Pulse Asia said Arroyo received majority disapproval ratings (51 percent to 70 percent) in virtually all survey sub-groupings.

The only non-majority disapproval figures were recorded in Eastern and Central Visayas (46 percent and 48 percent), Regions 1, 2, and the CAR (50 percent), and among those working in government (49 percent).

Public disapproval was more manifest in the urban areas than

in rural areas (64 percent versus 55 percent), Pulse Asia said.

Public criticism of the presidential performance among those with high school education or vocational training went up by +10 percentage points from October 2009 and March 2010.

It also rose among the unemployed (+10 percentage points) and among those aged 18-24 years old (+11 percentage points).

Meanwhile, the survey showed Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile having the highest approval rating (41 percent) among top officials.

Pulse Asia said only Enrile showed improvement in approval rating between October 2009 and March 2010 at five percentage points.

Declines in approval scores were noted for Speaker Prospero Nograles (five percent-

age points) and Chief Justice Reynato Puno (12 points).

The disapproval rating for Vice President Noli de Castro rose six points, Pulse Asia said.

Receiving approval scores of 19 percent were Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa got 33 percent.

The poll also showed that the Arroyo administration failed to score a majority approval rating on its responses to 11 national issues.

The Arroyo government received "big plurality to small majority" disapproval ratings for its efforts to enforce the law equally on all citizens (40 percent), increase the pay of workers (41 percent), control inflation (50 percent), reduce poverty (50 percent), and fight corruption in government (52 percent).



Arroyo

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Woman yields P3.5-M cocaine in Laguna buy-bust

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna — A brick of suspected cocaine with a street value of P3.5 million was seized from a woman in a police buy-bust operation in San Pedro, Laguna Thursday afternoon, the police said Friday. Senior Superintendent Manolito Labador, Laguna police director said the Lea Millares, 30, was arrested after trying to sell P2,000 worth of the illegal drug to a police poseur-buyer in Barangay (village) Langgam around 3 p.m. Police recovered from Millares 700 grams of the drug in a bundle sealed with brown packaging tape. The suspect was detained at the municipal police station awaiting charges. (*Inquirer Southern Luzon*)

Ombudsman OKs graft raps vs Iloilo gov

The Ombudsman has approved the filing of graft charges against Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. for granting a quarry permit to an unqualified private contractor who allegedly served as a dummy for another company. In a resolution, the Ombudsman said the permit allowed the private contractor to partner with a mining company owned by in-laws of Tupas' son Raul and which later bagged a P63-million subcontract to build the New Iloilo Airport. The resolution, signed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro, recommended the filing of graft charges against

Tupas and six private contractors in the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court. The Ombudsman also found Tupas guilty of grave misconduct, dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the public based on the case. Tupas was slapped with dismissal but because of his reelection in 2007, the penalty was deemed unenforceable. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

China-Taiwan pact bad news for OFWs

MANILA, Philippines—Overseas Filipino workers in Taiwan could lose their jobs and Taiwanese tourists could skip the Philippines in the event Taiwan and China push ahead with signing an economic pact in June. This was among the adverse impact of the possible firming up of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (Ecfa) between China and Taiwan, according to National Economic Development Authority (Neda) director Dennis Arroyo, who said they raised this concern to President Macapagal-Arroyo at Tuesday's Neda meeting. Speaking to reporters, Arroyo said her administration considered the Ecfa a "threat" because this would attract Taiwanese investments and tourists away from the Philippines and into China. The most "immediate" impact should the pact be signed as scheduled in June was this would cause a slump in tourist arrivals here from Taiwan, he said. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)



PLANE CRASH

Investigators check the remains of an Antonov 12 aircraft that crashed about 22 miles (35 kilometers) south of Clark airport, Pampanga province, northern Philippines on Thursday April 22, 2010. The Russian-made cargo plane crashed and burst into flames in a rice field north of the Philippine capital late Wednesday as it attempted a landing. Three crew were killed and three pulled out alive from the burning wreckage.

OFW money transfers now exempt from stamp tax

MANILA, Philippines—As the amended Migrant Workers Act come into force, overseas Filipino workers can now count on some P1.3 billion in extra savings with the abolition of the documentary stamp tax on all their remittances under the new law.

This was revealed by former Labor Undersecretary and now Nacionalista Party senatorial candidate Susan "Toots" Ople in a news release over the weekend.

"The scrapping of the DST on remittances is timely, and should help the beneficiaries here of migrant Filipino workers recover some of the buying power lost due to the peso's recent surge against the dollar," Ople said.

The local currency closed

Thursday at \$1:P44.36, eight percent or P3.85 higher compared to \$1:P48.21 a year ago.

The removal of the DST on all funds wired home by OFWs would help drive down money transfer charges, and put more cash in the pockets of those receiving remittances, Ople said.

She urged the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Finance to promptly issue the new law's implementing rules and regulations so that OFWs would immediately benefit from reduced remittance charges.

Local banks and non-bank money transfer agents such as The Western Union Co. and Moneygram International Inc. collect the

DST before the funds sent home by OFWs are actually paid out to their beneficiaries here.

Based on the projected \$19 billion worth of remittances from OFWs this year, the DoF said government would be giving up around P1.3 billion in revenues annually with the removal of the DST.

The new Migrant Workers Act, or Republic Act 10022, recently lapsed into law without President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

Section 22 of the new law provides that all funds sent home by OFWs shall be exempt from the DST. The OFWs' beneficiary simply has to present a proof of entitlement from the Philippine Overseas Employ-

ment Administration.

Prior to the passage of RA 10022, all money transfers from abroad and payable in the Philippines, including those wired home by OFWs, were subject to the DST at a rate of P0.30 for every P200.

This means OFWs pay a DST of P33.27 for every \$500 or P22,180 (at \$1:P44.36) they send home. This is on top of foreign and local bank fees, plus the P0.50 to a dollar margin domestic banks are allowed when paying out remittances in pesos.

According to a previous study by the World Bank, OFWs spend up to \$22 to send home \$500, or as much as \$14 to remit \$200. (*INQUIRER.net*)

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Villar pressure on PSE to okay stock offering bared

By NORMAN BORDADORA,
TETCH TORRES

INQUIRER.NET, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Senator Manuel Villar earned P26 billion—P5 billion of which he supposedly earmarked for his presidential campaign—from an allegedly irregular transaction in 2007 involving his holding company's shares.

Former president Joseph Estrada and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile made this disclosure in a news conference on Thursday morning.

Presenting minutes of the Philippine Stock Exchange discussions in 2007 on Villar's Vista Land and Lifescapes, Inc., Enrile said Villar appeared in a regular meeting of the PSE board and then had a caucus with them in June 2007.

As a result of Villar's appearance before the PSE board, Enrile said, the board allowed the release from escrow of locked-up VLL shares for the company's public offering.

The "lock up" requirement is a standard proscription in all listings and public offerings of shares of stock of private business corporations. It pro-

hibits major shareholders like the Villars from selling their own shares within a certain period.

"From the record of all these proceedings, there is no doubt in my mind that Senator Manuel Villar himself lobbied and exerted pressure to railroad the approval of his family-owned company's request for exemption to enable him and his family to sell their shares which were otherwise subject to lock-up at a hefty premium!" Enrile said.

"Dahil sa palusot na ginawa ni Manny Villar, maraming gumaya at

sumunod sa kanya. Mas marami pang mga investor sa stock exchange ang maaring naloko at nalugi. Sinira ni Manny Villar at ng mga kasabwat niya sa PSE Board ang integridad ng Philippine Stock Exchange [Because of the maneuvering of Manny Villar, many imitated and followed his example. Many more investors in the stock exchange may have been fooled and lost

money. Manny Villar and his accomplices in the PSE Board have damaged the integrity of the Philippine Stock Exchange]," he added.

"Ito ba ang uri ng tao na dapat iluklok ng sambayan bilang susunod na Pangulo ng Pilipinas [Is this the kind of person the people should install as the next President of the Philippines]?" Enrile said.

Mayor, 2 police charged in Philippine poll killing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police filed murder charges Thursday against a town mayor, his two police bodyguards and three others in the killing of a rival candidate, as political violence spiked ahead of next month's Philippine elections.

Witnesses have identified a police officer in Mayor Joshua Judd Secchon Lanete's security escort as the gunman who killed the politician's opponent in the central island province of Masbate last weekend, said Senior Superintendent Victor Deona.

At least 33 people have been killed in election-related attacks since Jan. 10, police said. The Philippines polls are May 10.

Elections are often marred by violence and fraud. About 130 people were killed during the 2007 elections. Nearly a third of Philippine cities and municipalities have been identified as potential hotspots for election unrest.

In the worst case in the country's

recent history, members of a powerful clan are accused of massacring 57 people, including journalists, family members and supporters of a political rival, in the southern Philippines, in November.

Afterward, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo created a commission charged with dismantling more than 100 private armies on the payroll of political warlords.

Some were disbanded, but a member of the commission, Herman Basbano, told reporters Wednesday that more gunmen were being hired despite the government crackdown.

"Candidates resort to using these private armed groups," he said.

Police have said that nearly 2,000 people have been arrested across the country for violation of an election gun ban.

Mayor Lanete and the other accused were taken into custody and could not be reached for comment Thursday.



EARTH DAY RALLY

Environmentalists march to mark Earth Day Thursday, April 22, 2010, in Quezon City north of Manila, Philippines. The group called on the people to elect a progressive and environmental leader to replace President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo whom they claim to be the most environmentally disastrous president.

28 pct. fewer Filipino nurses seek US jobs in 1Q

MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—The number of Filipino nurses seeking to practice their profession in the United States fell by 28 percent in the first quarter compared to a year ago, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said in a news release.

Only 3,024 Filipino nurses took the NCLEX for the first time from January to March, down 1,170 from 4,194 in the same quarter of 2009, according to TUCP secretary general and former senator Ernesto Herrera.

The NCLEX refers to the licensure examination administered by the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing Inc.

"We are around 2006 levels in terms of the number of Filipino nurses tak-

ing the NCLEX for the first time and indicating their desire to enter the US nursing profession," said Herrera, former chairman of the Senate committee on labor, employment and human resources development.

Herrera said many recession-hit American employers are still reluctant to hire additional skilled foreign workers, including nurses.

"Instead of recruiting new practitioners, many American hospitals are simply asking their existing nursing staff to work extra," Herrera said.

With the American economy still emerging from a deep slowdown, Herrera said local governments there are struggling to cope with massive tax revenue shortfalls and stiff budget cuts.

"In the case of community hospitals and nursing homes run by state and city governments there, they are definitely reeling from funding constraints," Herrera said.

Due to the weak labor market in America, he said a growing number of Filipino nurses are seeking foreign employment opportunities elsewhere.

Here at home, Herrera also noted that the rush to obtain a nursing degree appears to have temporarily waned.

In Cebu, for instance, he said nursing schools that aggressively expanded their capacity in the last 12 months "have realized that fewer first-year students are actually entering nursing programs" compared to a year or two ago.

Domingo said.

But she said the government has taken steps to help unemployed nurses, through the Project Nurse program.

Domingo said under the program, unemployed nurses could opt for training in the country's rural areas while earning P8,000 per month.

Another program, she said, was aimed at helping unemployed nurses form cooperatives and associations that would provide health care services. (Inquirer Mindanao)

Filipino nurses avoid Middle East due to security concerns

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—Some 5,000 nurses are needed in the Middle East, but only a few from the Philippines are interested in the job openings even if many nurses in the country are unemployed, according to a government official.

Oflia Domingo, assistant director of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) in Southern Mindanao, said on Monday that concerns about security has been deterring Filipino nurses about getting jobs in the Middle East.

"The common perception among Filipino nurses is that going to the Middle East is not safe. They are afraid," she told reporters here.

Domingo said a large number of Filipino nurses would rather go to the United States, Canada and non-Middle East countries.

But she said strict regulations in other countries resulted in only a small number being accepted in health-related jobs there.

"Jobs in the US and other countries are only for qualified nurses,"

TAKE CHARGE

Revisit your retirement plan

By DR. JOHNNY NOET RAVALO
INQUIRER.NET

My father just got out of the Intensive Care Unit. Throughout his confinement, he was constantly asking about the balance on his bills. We tried to dance around the issue. Finally, he stopped asking after assuring himself that he had his Social Security System pension to rely on.

His comment made me wonder. My father's pension is only slightly more than P4,000 a month after working all his life. This amount covers less than a week of his maintenance medication. We are not even talking here of having a caregiver or of the costs of being confined at a hospital. If new medicines are prescribed after his confinement, there is a very good chance that his medicine needs will only increase.

The financial demands of long-term health care is just one of the reasons why you should begin to ask how this on-going global crisis affects your projected retirement plans.

Financial markets have seen a general decline in interest rates. How does this lower-interest rate environment impact investors, specifically retirement plans?

Retirement plans are particularly vulnerable to low interest rates. Lower yields will translate to lower expected returns over time. It is simply unrealistic to expect the same returns now as the returns you enjoyed 12 to 18 months ago. What the crisis has done, among others, is alter financial projections.

The difficulty then is two-fold. First, there may be a real need to scale down our longer-term financial plans. If your target was to earn 6 percent

over 25 years, your initial P100 will eventually become P429.18. If you get 6 percent for 20 years but only get 1 percent for five years, the nest egg shrinks to P337.07. That is a 22 percent drop in the retirement fund as a result of five bad investing years despite 20 good years.

Second, there may be the temptation to compensate by going for more complex, higher risk instruments. That would not be prudent and is probably one of the reasons why the international market is where it is today.

Of course there are other factors involved. A P4,000-a-month pension is not enough to meet my father's needs in the first place and having to adjust further does not leave much room. The option though is to live as if the original retirement plan will be sufficient and without the reality check now, get the shock of your life when you find that it won't be enough.

Dr. Noet Ravallo is a macro-financial economist by practice and profession. He is currently Managing Director at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine central bank. Previous to this, he was chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. Have a question for Dr. Noet? Email personal_finance@inquirer.net.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Kim Chiu likes to pay it forward

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Young actress Kim Chiu is all for paying it forward.

The Chinese-Filipino actress recently visited the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Sampaloc, Manila, to donate milk, medicines and medical supplies.

"I read an article in a magazine about how Fabella is in terrible need of medical equipment and supplies. It also mentioned that it gets really crowded in the nursery. Sobrang kawawa," she told Inquirer Entertainment.

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital is a maternal and newborn tertiary hospital founded in the 1920s. According to a Wikipedia report, 20 percent of babies in Metro Manila are born here. As of 2003, it has an average of 88 daily live births.

Outreach programs

Kim, Kimberly Sue Yap Chiu in real life, turns 20 today. "I try to organize outreach programs like this every year. It's my way of sharing my blessings. Not all girls my age get to experience what I have now. That's why I'm forever grateful," she explained.

Her dream house, which stands on a 900-sq-m lot in Loyola Grand Villas in Quezon City, is one of her birthday gifts to herself. "The house will be finished by November. My four siblings and I will be staying there. It is the product of my own sweat and blood," she said, adding that the lot alone had cost her P7 million.

Kim arrived in the interview carrying a turquoise Hermes clutch — another birthday treat for herself. "I said, I'm turning 20 now, makabili nga ng isa," she said.

Now that she's a year older, Kim said she hoped to take on "more mature and dramatic" roles on TV and on the big screen. "My ultimate dream is to win a

Gwyneth Paltrow returns as 'Pepper' Potts in Iron Man 2

MANILA, Philippines (INQUIRER.net)—When Gwyneth Paltrow signed up for the first Iron Man film she placed her trust in the considerable talents of director Jon Favreau because, as she points out, while she was making it she really had no idea how it would turn out—just a hunch that the director was about to deliver something special.

The chance to work opposite Robert Downey Jr., who plays playboy billionaire Tony Stark/Iron Man, was also a huge draw. "Robert and I have a very good rhythm together," she notes. But it was, essentially, a leap of faith that paid off spectacularly.

"I committed to it without ever reading anything, there wasn't really a script at that point," she says. "It was just Jon explaining the character to me, explaining how the relationships were going to be, and kind of asking for that trust, that leap of faith.

"I was really happy and surprised when I saw the first film. Because I didn't even know the plot, even when we were doing it I couldn't really piece it together and I didn't understand the whole picture.



Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson

Best Actress award. The toughest role I've done so far is play Audrey in 'Tayong Dalawa.' Tinodo ko talaga," she declared. "I also want to gain more weight. This is why I'm spending more time in the gym. I've recently gone up from 94 to 98 lbs. My goal is to reach 110 lbs."

Kim was the first winner of "Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition" in 2006. Six

months following the end of the show, she was paired with Gerald Anderson and has since appeared in several ABS-CBN shows and films with him. They are currently part of the drama series "Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo."

Birthday gift

On her 19th birthday, Kim got an ex-

fresh thing to do," she says.

"Revealing that Tony Stark is Iron Man at the end of the first film and not doing the whole Batman secret identity thing was a very fresh take and I think it allows for a whole world of possibilities that don't normally exist in this kind of movie.

"Normally the hero's identity is hidden and now we can do a whole host of things that you normally don't get to see."

Indeed, Favreau's blend of wit and stunning action sequences, his crafting of the CGI with live action and most of all, his passion for developing strong characters, are all hallmarks of the first film that have been incorporated into—and improved on—in the second.

Take, for instance, Stark's relationship with his trusted aide, Pepper Potts. In the first film she was his assistant and the person who knew him best in the entire world. Behind that brash, arrogant exterior, Pepper knew that there was a man struggling to do the right thing, but rarely succeeding. She could see the good in Stark where others couldn't.



Paltrow

pensive two-door refrigerator from Gerald, her rumored boyfriend. "I made him promise not to give me anything grand this year. Nakakahiya na," she said. Kim, on the other hand, gifted Gerald a Louis Vuitton traveling bag on his 21st birthday last month.

Kim denied tabloid reports that

said she and Gerald "disappeared" in one of their Kapamilya shows in New York. The two were allegedly found in a hotel room. "OA naman 'yon. I went shopping and Gerald came along. He simply helped me carry all 12 pairs of shoes back to the hotel," she clarified.

4 new 'Wowowee' girls not a threat

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"Should I ever have to leave 'Wowowee,' I'd understand that it's time for me to move on. But right now, my place in the show is secured," said TV host Mariel Rodriguez about the recent addition of four female co-hosts on the noontime Kapamilya show.

Kelly Misa, Jed Montero, Isabelle Abiera and Malaysian actress Carmen Soo joined "Wowowee" on April 10. They now share hosting chores with Mariel, Pokwang, Valerie Concepcion and RR Enriquez.

Speculations about the fate of the original hosts were quelled when main host Willie Revillame recently declared, "Nobody will leave. Our family just got bigger."

"We're very thankful that we've been retained. Pwede naman kasing new hosts na lang," said Mariel at the launch of a vodka brand, Cos-

sack Blue.

They're all still adjusting to the new lineup, Mariel said. "We're helping [the new girls] along. I've been doing this everyday for almost four years. I can do it with my eyes closed. But it's difficult for them, especially those who have never hosted before."

Is she ever ill-at-ease around the new hosts? "Gosh, no! I'm like a guidance counselor to them. I'm not kidding," said Mariel. "I'm also like their entertainer in the dressing room. I want them to be as comfortable around me as possible." She added: "Carmen doesn't understand Filipino at all. I translate every word for her. She's so cute. She's like a Martian. Everything we say is alien to her. Kuya Willie calls me Carmen Susi because I try to talk like Carmen."

Tips and advice are as far as Mariel would go, she said. "I can't dictate to the girls; they should have their own hosting style."

Happy to be a Binibining Pilipinas reject

By **ARMIN ADINA**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Miss Philippines-Earth 2009 Sandra Inez Seifert sympathizes with Maria Venus Raj, the embattled beauty queen whose Binibining Pilipinas-Universe crown still hangs in the balance.

"I can relate 100 percent to what she is going through," said Seifert, a Filipino-German model and nursing

month due to alleged misrepresentation—specifically, inconsistencies in her official birth records.

Both girls have claimed they were not given time to answer the accusations against them.

"It's tough, what [Venus] is going through," Sandra told Inquirer. "I had a very strong support group; I hope Venus had that kind of help around her," she added.

Sandra said she hoped BPCI also learned from the experience. In hindsight, she admitted she is grateful for her disqualification, since it paved the way for her joining the rival Miss Philippines-Earth pageant. "As 'Miss Philippines-Earth,'" she said, "I was able to touch many lives."

Close second

Her victory as Miss Philippines-Earth led to her participation in the Miss Earth pageant in Boracay, against some 80 international delegates. She placed second to Brazil's Larissa Ramos and also won the "Miss Earth-Air" title.

A new Miss Philippines-Earth will be crowned tomorrow night in a water-theme pageant to be held at the Manila Ocean Park.

Catherine Untalan, executive director of the Miss Earth Foundation, said the pageant is looking for "a well-rounded person, someone worth looking up to." The Miss Philippines-Earth pageant will be telecast April 25, 10 p.m. on ABS-CBN.



Sandra Inez Seifert

graduate. "I wish [Venus' case] had been handled another way."

Last year, contest organizer Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. had disqualified Sandra from the competition two days before pageant night in March, due to her photos that appeared in a men's magazine in 2007.

Venus was stripped of her title last

Maharlika – Opinyon

Almost over but the shouting, or the cheating

Seventeen days from now, we will be casting our vote. It is a historic day, not so much because it is Election Day, but because Election Day is happening at a time when democracy, its vision and principles, are dirtied by greed and lust for power instead of being nourished by service and contribution.

Beside being historic, it has been bruising and may still get worse. Thankfully, it has not been that violent so far. It could be because money has taken the lead in driving the game. The big guns, not the small ones, are those who usually set the pace—whether a campaign will be by guns or by gold. By far, it has been the gold. Many are saying that this is the most expensive election ever, and they are right.

Before anything began, the Comelec started the money binge by forcing through a fully automated system—at least by paper and by budget. More than 7 billion pesos spent and about to be spent have not eased the suspicion that the automation was approved with congressional appropriation from an administration desperate to retain control of government. Imagine, a president running for Congress, taking the district of her son when mothers are supposed to retire and give way to the next generation. Then, the son is reported as the nominee of a partylist representing security guards!

A friend of mine from the United States chided me for calling the President by her first name, Gloria, and just that—Gloria. He said that is disrespectful. I believe I know where he is coming from but I also believe he does not know anymore where I am coming from, nor where Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is coming from, too. Disrespect begets disrespect, even scorn. When she disrespected the presidency and the spirit of the Constitution banning a second term for

the president, she wore her ambition on her sleeve, ambition or lust for power, which disrespects the ethics of honorable leadership.

Why did I mention Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the context of a suspicious automated system? How can a 7-billion-peso project find support and funds if the president does not want it? From primitive to full automation is a quantum leap, and there is no corresponding leap of the attitude to warrant such a radical shift. For a political system and a governance that has been defined by transactional relationships, by corrupt and exploitative leadership dragging the Philippines to the bottom of the honesty meter in South East Asia, what would be the reason for full automation?

If the president cannot let go of power and seeks to stay in the political field as congresswoman, how can she blame people for speculating about getting the Speakership and forcing through a Constitutional Assembly? If everyone, including her allies, know that it is both her fear of ending up in jail, with maybe her family members with her, and her greed for power and its perks, that is driving her to run for Congress, why would not everyone know that she is trying to load the dice with the automation of the election?

It would be funny if we only believed that the Comelec was inept in insisting that the system they chose and bought would do its job well. However, ineptness is not the vice for which the Comelec is known for; rather, it is dishonesty, it is corruption, it is cheating that has brought the reputation of the Comelec to the gutter. So, it is not funny but dangerous when the Comelec stumbles and gets the wrong ink, prints forms with nuisance candidates, and leaks to the public that manualized elections could happen in 30% of the country—and not yet identifying where that 30 percent is.

A great disaster has been designed to suit the evil agenda of powers that even Comelec bows to. As Noynoy pulls away from his nearest rivals, the desperation that will trigger vulgar and massive

cheating will bring the country to confrontation. The military and the police authorities who are subservient to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her black operators are prepared to quell civil unrest. They should be prepared to quell rebellion from the ranks, too, because there is serious dissension among the officers, and more so the younger they are, too.

The moment of change has come to our shores and our hearts.

The wave that started as a murmur out there in the horizon, or deep down there in our gut, too deep for us to recognize quickly, is rushing not only to make itself seen but felt. Why can our politicians, including many who rant and rave in the Internet who belong to an era that has faded badly, not see the writing on the wall? What is dominant will fight to stay dominant, but it cannot win the war anymore, at most only a battle here and there. Tomorrow belongs to the now generation, and the next.

Electoral campaigns are always emotional, but they are much more than that now. It has often been dirty, often been violent, but it often stayed only with the more direct players of the political

dimension. Today, the dirtiness has traveled all the way to our homes and offices, everywhere that the Internet can reach. It is not only information and knowledge that is virally spread, it is filth and malice as well.

For those who are more wired to the ground, whose eyes and ears and keen observation watch and assess the dynamics in towns and cities, the tide crests for one and ebbs for the other. All the shrill commentaries and pseudo political analysis will soon be silenced or exposed for their ignorance, or for their evil intent to mislead the sheep who read but refuse to think.

The score will not be close. In these last two weeks before the election, there will be a flurry of political shifts – towards the winner. We only have to watch the circus, then celebrate or protest.

EDITORIAL

The other kiss of death

The prime suspect behind the horrific massacre in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, can endorse any presidential candidate he likes, or even as many candidates as there are days in a week, but can he call a news conference right in prison to announce his endorsement? That is the crucial question that must be asked about Tuesday's political gimmick by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr.

A gimmick it certainly was, but it was also yet another proof that justice for the rich and the well-connected is different from justice for the rest of us.

Apparently, all it took for Ampatuan to host a news conference with a political (not a legal) agenda was a phone call, from one of his lawyers, to officials of the Quezon City Jail Annex in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. Senior Insp. Lloyd Gonzaga, QCJA warden, said the written request was “to follow.” In other words, it was an accommodation. We realize that, as a detainee and not a convicted criminal, Ampatuan has not lost all of his civil rights, but can he turn his prison into a virtual political rally?

The point is, the administration of justice is difficult enough, without detainees using prison cells as a forum for politically partisan activity. Indeed, the example of detained mutineers like Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV or Col. Ariel Querubin or Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim tells us that any political statement or activity is discouraged, if it is unfavorable to the Arroyo administration. This only means, then, that the people behind Ampatuan's news conference, and the authorities who approved it, saw it as favorable to the administration.

And why did they think so? Because of the content of Ampatuan's endorsement. A day before the conference, the *Inquirer* reported that Ampatuan's politically influential clan in Maguindanao had endorsed Nacionalista standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar. And a few days earlier, Ampatuan, who is alleged to have taken part in the actual killing and mutilation of the massacre victims, was seen wearing Nacionalista campaign paraphernalia.

That is no concern to us—except that just days later Ampatuan suddenly and mysteriously resurfaced, during the news conference, as a supporter of Villar's main rival, Liberal presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

We do not expect Ampatuan to be immune to the balimbing curse or the turncoat virus; he can change his political colors, as many others have. But something about the whole affair smells downright fishy.

This, in all likelihood, is what happened: After gauging growing public distaste for his endorsement of Villar, Ampatuan seems to have calculated that his kiss of death—like President Macapagal-Arroyo's support, a true disincentive to voting—was better applied to his endorsee's rival. Again, nothing wrong with that, except that it involved treachery, and it required the willing cooperation of the authorities. That is what makes the entire affair sordid; in Ampatuan's mini miting de avance, his jailers served as his political coordinators.

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Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
INQUIRER.NET

Just a colony, not a state

In 1898 the United States of America made her debut as a world power after she emerged the victor of the 1898 Spanish-American War. At the time, she did not think much of the 1899 Philippine-American War and downplayed it as a mere “insurrection” or revolt against an established government. Emilio Aguinaldo's government, our first republic, was not recognized by any other country, hence, technically, there was no such thing as the Philippine-American War, it was just the Philippine Insurrection.

It is unfortunate that Spanish or U.S. history is not taught in our schools because it would help young Filipinos understand why our country is the way it is.

One of the overlooked areas in Philippine history is the negotiation for the Treaty of Peace between the U.S. and Spain that was ironed out in Paris towards the end of 1898. Felipe Agoncillo made representations on behalf of the Philippine Republic that was not recognized, so we had no say when the U.S. acquired the Philippines from Spain for the magnificent amount of \$20 million.

Historians are fortunate that one of the American peace commissioners, Whitelaw Reid, kept a diary that fleshed out important debates for and against the annexation of the Philippines following the war. Before leaving for France, the Peace Commission met with U.S. President William McKinley in the White House and their discussion on the fate of the Philippines can be summarized as follows:

The U.S. needed coaling stations in the Pacific, so she must have stations for her ships in Manila, the Ladrone islands and Caroline islands. Following the annexation of Hawaii, the U.S. wanted a cable line from Hawaii to the Philippines. Therefore, the U.S. needed the whole Philippine archipelago, or at the very least the important parts. After Aug. 13, 1898, Manila was in the hands of the Americans and though they did not control the rest of the archipelago (significant parts were under the control of Emilio Aguinaldo's government), they felt that by having the capital from which the entire archipelago was governed, they could brag that “the Philippines was ours by right of conquest.”

The U.S. Peace Commission was divided on the Philippines because some members felt it would be practical to keep or take only Manila as the gateway of American trade in the Far East. Then, as now, the U.S. had its sights on China.

Another suggestion was to keep Manila a free city like those in the Hanseatic League, and for the U.S. to guarantee its independence. If the U.S. kept Manila, military advisers suggested that adjacent territory be taken as well, at least for the protection of the capital. From this came the recommendation that the U.S. keep the whole of Luzon, or that Luzon be divided at the peninsula, in the

southern part.

Then as now, the Muslim South was a challenge. Thus in many discussions, Mindanao was always left out. It was recommended that if the decision was for the U.S. to take the Philippines, Mindanao was not to be part of the deal. As a matter of fact, one of the peace commissioners suggested that Mindanao be given to the Dutch who had nearby colonies, like Indonesia. As Holland was friendly to the US, it was deemed a better option than Germany, which was also interested in Mindanao.

It was not obvious at the time that McKinley had already made up his mind to take the Philippines even if there were always denials that the U.S. was seeking territorial expansion. If you look closely at the composition of the five-man Peace Commission, there were three “imperialists” that always outnumbered the two “anti-imperialists” when matters were brought to a vote.

Reid's diaries make things clear when he wrote: “Our true national interest, therefore, was to seek a development for our commerce, particularly with countries who needed what we had to sell and could not produce, and who could offer U.S. in exchange what we needed and could not produce.

The Philippines seemed to me to meet these conditions, and so did China. The control of the Pacific Ocean pointed almost exclusively to a commerce under these conditions and seemed to me therefore to offer the largest and best commercial future for the country.

“I depreciated undue alarm about the difficulty of administering these distant possessions. What Great Britain had done successfully, a kindred people need not be less skillful in [doing]. No doubt it would involve material reforms in our civil service, which would be an advantage anyway. The constitution interposed no obstacles and there would be little difficulty in so modifying our present territorial system as to adapt it to any of these islands whenever it might be thought best to relieve them from military rule. But they should be governed permanently as colonies, never with the remotest idea of permitting them admission as states in the Union.”

Despite the appeal of a “benevolent assimilation” policy that would have the effect of making Filipinos “civilized” and “Christianized,” it was clear that the Philippines was to remain a colony. So much for Filipinos still dreaming about statehood.

These days government officials and diplomats are advised not to keep diaries lest these be subpoenaed. Better not to have incriminating evidence. But while this may be practical politically, it is bad historically.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Samu't Sari



SENATE RESOLUTION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), fifth from right, reads a Senate resolution conveying condolences to the family of the late Roque Abel "Naki" S. Celis and honoring his accomplishments and contributions to the CNMI people, particularly the CNMI Little League programs, while other senators look on during a special session last week. Receiving a copy of the resolution is Celis's wife, Remedio Celis, and their children.



TINIAN VISIT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On April 11, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz hosted three government officials from Japan at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Tinian Municipal Council and local directors were in attendance for the meeting. Former governor Froilan Tenorio was in attendance as well.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

Seven Tinian residents recently completed basic training on their way to becoming certified U.S. Wildland Firefighters. Back row, from left, standing: Wade, Mark, Bell, Bob; Joshua A. Manglona. Front row, from left, Donovan Liza-ma, Reggie Ayuyu, Craig Borja, Ignacio Kiyoshi, George Manglona, and Gerald Mundo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JET SKI TRAINING

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Guam jet ski trainers Sgt. Mark Aguon and Police Officer 3 Andrew Quitugua oversee the training of 19 law enforcers last week behind the Civic Center in Susupe. CNMI law enforcement agencies, aided by the Guam Police Department, are trying to improve their rescue capabilities in sea accidents.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy belated birthday to Kelly "Pak Pak" Camacho, a loving father, brother, and son. May your life be filled only with love and joy always!. With love, your big happy family!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Norlina Marie Igisaia! God bless and may all your wishes come true. We love you! Greetings come from Lyn, Cil, Tia and especially Mom B and Mom Rit.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 14th birthday to Kelly Ann. T. Hofschnider on April 22, 2010. Greetings coming from the family, friends, and staff and management of Hofschnider Engineering, LLC.

COMMUNITY READERS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross, reads to the 3rd grade class of Hilda Rios as part of the San Antonio Elementary School's Community Reader program. SAES wants to thank all who came and read to the students. The students really enjoyed the community members and are eager to listen to the stories read.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bob Coldeen, news director of local television station KSPN, is not just a sports reporter but also a good reader and writer! Coldeen read his own storybook to the 6th grade class of Frank Demapan as part of the San Antonio Elementary School's Community Reader program. Community members also shared with the students their roles and responsibilities in the community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

21 AND COUNTING...

Congratulations to our dad, Raymond S.A. Tupas, on making 21 years with Continental Micronesia! We miss and love you! Greetings come from your family in Texas.

Youngstyle

Take-your-kid-to-work day appears to lose steam



Alicia Agugliaro arrives at work Thursday, April 22, 2010, in Princeton, N.J., as she brings along her 7-year-old daughter Eliana Agugliaro.

By **DON BABWIN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—More than a decade after it began, take-your-kid-to-work day appears to be losing steam. Now it's keep-your-kid-in-school.

Thursday marked the 17th year for Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day. But some school districts sent strongly worded letters or e-mails to parents explaining that taking a child to work would put the youngster's education at risk.

Many teachers found their Thursday classes largely unaffected.

"We had only six out today—that's actually less than usual," said Darrell Propst, principal of Taylor Road Elementary School in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, who asked parents not to pull their kids out of school. "Our attendance was very, very good today."

Though many kids still accompany a parent to work, some employers say the event increasingly conflicts with high-stakes standardized testing in schools. And this year, it was overshadowed by Earth Day, which celebrated its 40th anniversary on Thursday.

In Texas—at Dell Inc. in Austin and Southern Methodist University in Dallas—most of the focus was on Earth Day, not Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

"I haven't heard about that in a while," SMU spokesman Kent Best said. "It was a big deal maybe a decade ago. ... So today is the day?"

Travis Carter, a public relations executive in Dallas who has two children, ages 5 and 6, said his kids reminded him it was Earth Day and took their recyclables to school.

"I am surprised to now hear that it's also take-your-kids-to-work day," he said.

The event was launched in 1993 and has always fallen on the fourth Thursday in April. But that date has drawn complaints from school administrators for well over a decade, especially because many standardized tests fall on or near the same day.

Some school officials have contacted the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Foundation to ask that the event be held on a school holiday or during the summer, but the organization won't budge.

In Illinois, where state lawmakers have gone so far as to encourage companies to invite employees' children during the summer, a letter sent home with kids in one suburban Chicago district was paying off.

"In the elementary schools, we had 200 kids out" because of parents taking them to work, said Lynn Brandl, spokeswoman for Hawthorn School District 73. "That's about half of what it was last year."

In Phoenix, the superintendent sent out a letter telling students that missing time from school, even one day, means "his or her learning achievement suffers." Officials said a sampling of schools showed no significant drop in attendance.

"We see results with the let-

ter," said Sandi Hicks, spokeswoman for the Deer Valley Unified School District, which has sent out a version of the letter for seven years.

Some companies said they do not participate in the formal national program because they host other career-oriented options for schoolchildren that they think are more appropriate.

But others said they agreed to move their events to another day after complaints that the event was disrupting the academic year.

"Our companies are quite cooperative and agreed to move (their events) to the third week in June," said Susan Carlson, executive director of the Arizona Business & Education Coalition.

But others stuck to the original date, including First Lady Michelle Obama, who spent about an hour Thursday taking questions from children of executive office employees.

In Florida, where some educators still enthusiastically support the day, Honeywell Aerospace hosted an event at its Clearwater facility, just as it has done for years.

A company spokeswoman said there's been no suggestion that the event be rescheduled, and there's been no drop-off in attendance. "It's about 350 kids, and it's been about 350 kids every year," said Karen Crabtree.

Some parents who brought their children to work didn't understand what all the fuss was about. One mother said the value of learning about the

working world easily justified skipping a day of school.

"We were actually involved in a global town hall meeting where the CEO was talking about the company and the good things that we do as an organization," Alicia Agugliaro said after bringing her 7-year-old daughter to the drug-development company in Princeton, N.J., where she works in marketing communications.

Her daughter "really paid attention" to the presentation.

"She saw how we are bringing medicine to market sooner

and how it affects people's lives," Agugliaro said.

While unemployment remains high in many parts of the U.S., Susan Murphy of the National Human Resources Association said she has not seen any decline in participation, though but some companies have stopped distributing things like shirts and other freebies.

Participation in this year's program was not immediately known, and it may take a few months before attendance figures are compiled, said George McKecuen of

the Take Our Daughters to Work Day Foundation.

But, he said, the event remains popular, with about 18 million kids participating each year between 2005 and 2009.

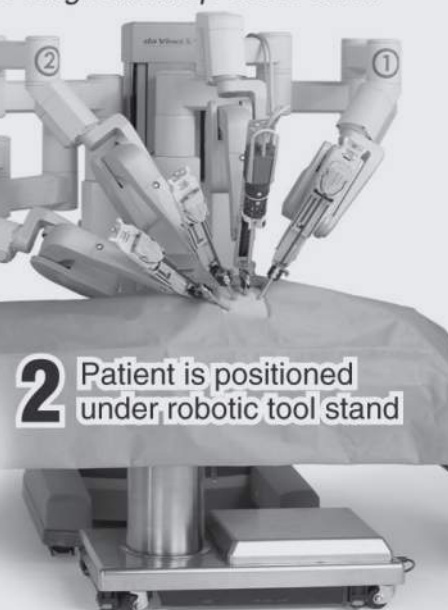
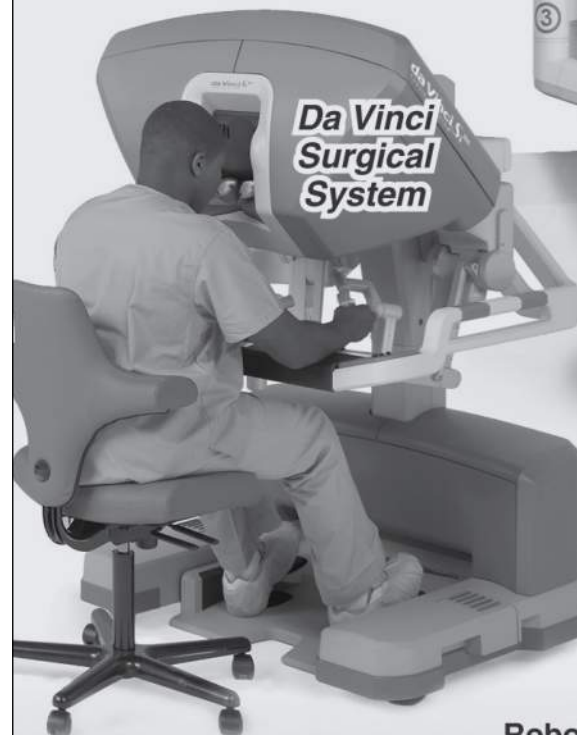
He acknowledged that participation had fallen fairly dramatically before 2004, when the event, which had for years been just for girls, was expanded to include boys. In 2001, for example, the 10.5 million girls who participated was more than 5 million fewer than the number who took part just two years earlier.

Science Matters

Tiny remote-control tools

"Minimally invasive surgery" is done through small holes rather than large incisions, and one system gives the surgeon an up-close view.

- 1 Surgeon sits at console controlling tools and watching 3-D image from inside incision



- 2 Patient is positioned under robotic tool stand

- 3 Three tools and 3-D camera pass through 0.4-0.8 in. (1-2 cm) incisions to surgical site

Operating room

Anesthesiologist

Robot controlled by surgeon

Heart-lung machine (heart surgery only)

Surgeon

Surgeon's view

Assistants change tools as needed

Surgeon's hands

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Source: Intuitive Surgical, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

Life & Style

Henderson sews up top prize on 'Project Runway'

NEW YORK (AP)—Impeccable tailoring and eye-catching, graphic design made Seth Aaron Henderson a cut above the rest on "Project Runway."

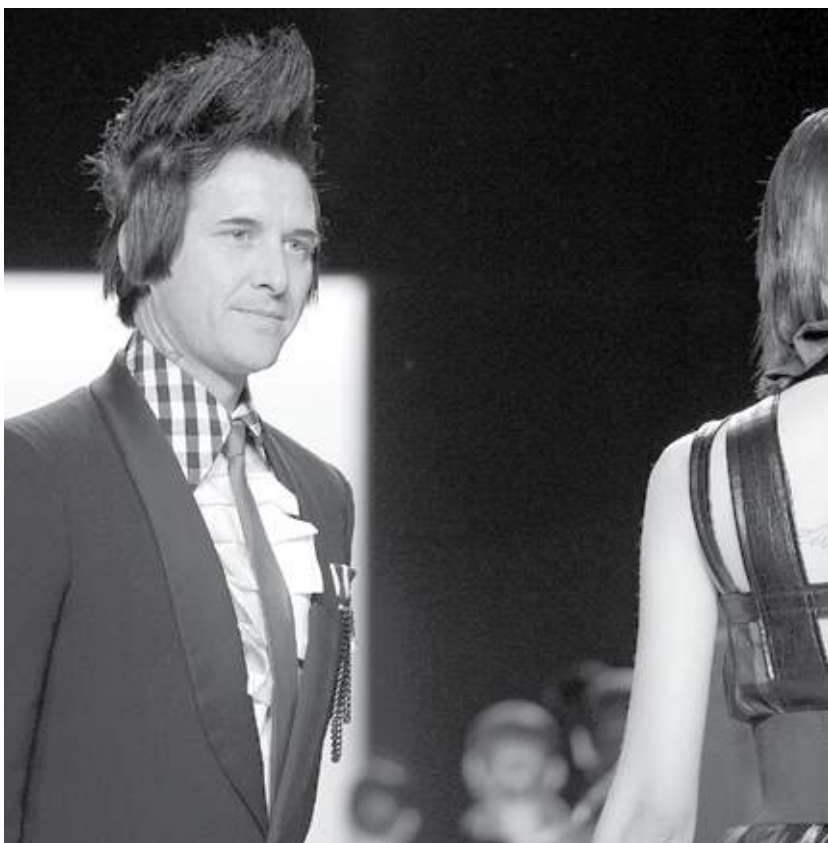
Judges Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia, Michael Kors and Faith Hill chose Henderson over runner-up Emilio Sosa on the finale of the Lifetime cable television network reality show's seventh season.

Henderson presented a sleek collection of red, yellow, black and gray high-collared dresses and separates, inspired by 1940s German and Soviet military. His looks were cinched in at the waist with thick leather belts and accessorized with leather gloves, chunky cuffs and patterned leggings.

"I'm a risk taker," Henderson, a 38-year-old stylist and designer from Vancouver, Wash., said Thursday in an interview. "I feel you have to push the envelope all the time, otherwise you're going to blend in."

Kors called Henderson's collection "exhilarating and powerful," and Garcia said Henderson was "fearless."

Contestants on the show, which previously aired on Bravo, were pitted against each other to see who could design the best clothing while stick-



In this Feb. 12, 2010 file photo, Designer Seth Aaron Henderson walks the runway during the Project Runway Season 7 finale show during Fashion Week in New York.

ing to a particular theme or using only certain materials. One contestant was eliminated each week until only three were left.

Sosa's mom and aunts inspired his vibrant collection, which he titled Color Me Bad. It featured bold red and blue dresses and tops, paired with black leggings and gloves. His show-stopper was a metallic green, one-shoulder goddess gown.

Sosa, who won the most challenges throughout the season, slumped over and appeared to fight back tears when the results were announced.

Mila Hermanovski came in third place with a retro black and white collection, inspired by shadows. The line included a flirty sequined dress, tailored trench coats and a mini-dress patterned with stripes and houndstooth.

Henderson wins \$100,000, along with other prizes, to continue work on his collection. He said his first big splurge will be a vacation with his wife and two children.

"I came here to prove something to myself, and I did that," he said. "But I guess I also impressed a lot of people along the way."

'South Park' producers say network cut fear speech

NEW YORK (AP)—Producers of "South Park" said Thursday that Comedy Central removed a speech about intimidation and fear from their show after a radical Muslim group warned that they could be killed for insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

It came during about 35 seconds of dialogue between the cartoon characters of Kyle, Jesus Christ and Santa Claus that was bleeped out.

"It wasn't some meta-joke on our part," producers Trey Parker and Matt Stone said. Comedy Central declined to comment.

Earlier this week, the radical group Revolution Muslim said on its website that "South Park" had insulted their prophet during last week's episode by depicting him in a bear costume.

The group said it wasn't threatening Parker and Stone, but it included a gruesome picture of Theo Van Gogh, a Dutch filmmaker killed by a Muslim extremist in 2004, and said the producers could meet the same fate. The website posted the addresses of Comedy Central's New York office and the California production studio where "South Park" is made.

Despite that, Parker and Stone included the Muhammad character in this week's episode. Muhammad appeared with his body obscured by a black box, since Muslims consider a physical representation of their prophet to be blasphemous. When the bear costume was removed, it was revealed to be Santa Claus.

Ellis Island gives Springsteen heritage award

NEW YORK (AP)—Everyone knows he was born in the USA, but it was Bruce Springsteen's European immigrant roots—and his family's 110-year American dream—that were celebrated on Thursday.

Accompanied by his proud mother and aunts—the women who "provided me with place" and "filled my family and all of my work with great meaning"—the rocker from New Jersey received an Ellis Island Family Heritage Award.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. presents the award to immigrants or their descendants "who have made a major contribution to the American experience." Also honored were investment banker Peter G. Peterson; Avon Chairman and CEO Andrea Jung, and NBA All-Star Dikembe Mutombo.

"You can't really know who you are and where you're going unless you know where you came from," Springsteen said.

Springsteen's maternal great-grandmother, Raffaella Zerilli, arrived at Ellis Island from Vico Equense, Italy, on Oct. 3, 1900, with five kids in tow.

"I docked at Ellis Island in a city of light and spires," their famous descendant later wrote in his song "American Land," a story not unlike their own.

They joined her husband, Raffaele, in Manhattan's West Village.

One of those kids, Antonio, grew up and married Adela Sorrentino. Their youngest daughter, Adele, went on to marry Irish-American Douglas Springsteen.



Singer Bruce Springsteen poses with, from left, his aunt Dora Kirby, 90, mother Adele Springsteen, 85, and aunt Ida Urbelis, 87, after being honored at the Ellis Island Family Heritage Awards Thursday, April 22, 2010 on Ellis Island in New York.

The Springsteens raised their three kids in New Jersey. One of them was a son.

When Bruce was 16, his mom borrowed money to buy him a guitar—an event he later chronicled in a tender tribute, "The Wish."

He taught himself how to play it—and went on to sell more than 120 million albums worldwide—including "We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions—American Land," released in 2001. The title cut, "American Land," is a raucous, gritty pantheon of immigrant pluck and pride.

Adele Springsteen, now 85, who worked as a legal secretary for 47 years, went on to dance onstage with her son in New Jersey and Italy.

Her son—the self-described former high school outcast—played the Super Bowl halftime show and President Barack Obama's inauguration.

And on Thursday, mother, son and aunts found themselves on the island between New York and New Jersey, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, basking in warm applause.

Adele Springsteen married into poverty and "held our family together under just great, great, great difficulty," said her son. "Thank you, Mom. I love you very much."

Aunt Dora Kirby, 90, graduated with honors from college at age 67. "She's still cranking out people's income taxes," and will be available again next tax season, Springsteen said.

Ida Urbellis, 87, another aunt and a longtime garment worker, still works as a hairdresser on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"These fabulous women, they are my living connection to my heritage, to Ellis Island," said Springsteen.

Faith Hill open to creating her own fashion line

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Faith Hill is a red carpet regular and has proven to be a consistent fashionista throughout her 15 years in country music.

That made her a perfect fit to judge the finale of this season's "Project Runway."

"I have always paid close attention to detail in my work, and I understand and relate to big dreams and hard work," she said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Fortunately, those things served me well while focusing on each designer. It was actually quite natural for me."

Hill has sold over 30 million records and has her own fragrance, Faith Hill Parfums. After her time on "Project Runway," Hill said she is open to creating her own fashion line in the future.

"If the right opportunity presents itself, I can guarantee you it would be my passion, and I would put my heart and soul into making it the best it could possibly be," she said. "I would design for the women I know and their kids ... busy moms with great style."

Hill has a lot in common with "Project Runway" host, Heidi Klum. Both have big families and famous husbands. Hill has three daughters with husband Tim McGraw and Klum has four children with husband Seal.

"Heidi is a pro," said Hill. "She was a great joy to be around."



In this March 7, 2010 file photo, singer Faith Hill arrives at the 82nd Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Hill said she was looking for several things in choosing the winner of "Project Runway."

"When it came down to the final three, they all had to be at the top of their game," she said. "A combination of tailoring, creativity, work ethic, the use of fabric, originality all played a part in the decision for the top spot."

Sigourney Weaver urges action to protect oceans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Proponents of climate change legislation usually invoke the need to reduce global warming, but actress Sigourney Weaver is coming to the defense of something that's often out of sight—oceans.

"One secret the oceans have kept very well is their sensitivity to carbon dioxide pollution," Weaver said at a Senate hearing Thursday, as she urged lawmakers to pass climate legislation that would limit carbon emissions.

She made her pitch on the same day that a report from the National Research Council found that ocean chemistry is changing faster than it has in hundreds of thousands of years because of the carbon dioxide being absorbed from the atmosphere. The resulting increased acidity of the oceans poses a serious threat to shellfish and other marine life.

Ocean acidification has been dubbed global warming's "evil twin."

"My hope, one shared by millions of Americans, is that you,



Actress Sigourney Weaver is interviewed by Associated Press on issues concerning climate change on Thursday, April 22, 2010, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

our legislators, will put aside your differences and enact climate and energy legislation that will move America to a clean energy economy," Weaver said. She also urged other steps such as protecting marine and coastal habitats and reducing pollution.

It was Weaver's second Capitol Hill visit this month. Last week, the "Avatar" star and the movie's director, James Cameron, participated in a panel discussion on global environmental policies and sustainable approaches.

"I, like a lot of concerned citizens, feel a kind of urgency about these climate questions," Weaver said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I don't think I've ever felt more passionately about anything than this because I feel we're already at a tipping point."

Weaver also appeared at a Capitol Hill luncheon to screen a documentary she narrates, "Acid Test: The Global Challenge of Ocean Acidification," which was produced by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Teen keeps mum about being groped by cousin's boyfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am an average 17-year-old girl with a big problem. A few days ago, my cousin's boyfriend touched me inappropriately. It took a few seconds for me to realize what was happening and stop him. I got up and left the room.

I don't want to tell my mom because she shares what we talk about with other people. I don't want to tell my cousin because she loves her boyfriend, and if I ruin this for her, she'll never speak to me again. I have seen her do it with other people.

My cousin visits my house every day with her boyfriend. I have been leaving for hours so I won't have to see him. Please help me. What other option do I have besides telling somebody?

STAYING SILENT IN GUAM

DEAR STAYING SILENT: You have two options. You can remain silent and let your cousin marry a man who has so little self-control that he would not only hit on another woman, but one who is a close relative of hers. Or you can tell your parents what happened so your cousin can be warned, and possibly save her from a world of heartache later on. Please be brave and do the right thing.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I know most of your readers are women, but could you please spread awareness of female-on-male domestic violence? You have done a great job with male-on-female abuse awareness, and I think American society is fairly well saturated with it. But there is little out there for men who have been or are being abused.

MINNESOTA READER

DEAR READER: Domestic violence is not restricted to any social, racial, religious, economic group or particular gender. And while male victims may be embarrassed to disclose it, men can be victims of domestic violence, too.

In years past, men were hesitant to call a domestic abuse hotline when there was a crisis because they were ashamed, had been bullied into thinking they "deserved it," or were afraid they wouldn't be believed. That is no longer the case.

Male victims of domestic violence can find help by contacting the Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women. The organization's toll-free helpline is (888) 743-5754 or log onto its Web site at www.dahmw.org. Another organization, SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), also assists victims of abuse regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation. Its Web site is www.safe4all.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together 10 months. I'm 18, and feel I have met the man of my dreams. We were friends for a long time before we became a couple.

My question is: Do you think a couple can spend too much time together? Every minute, every hour and every day that we can spend together we do—and I love it. But I don't want this to ruin our relationship. Am I doing the right thing?

CONFUSED IN MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

DEAR CONFUSED: You're a smart cookie and that's a very intelligent question. Although it's tempting, do not allow the romance to take up every available moment. Continue to devote time to your friends and to outside interests. It will make you a much more interesting person to be around, and you won't lose your independence.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Cigarette sponsor pulled from Kelly Clarkson show

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Pop star Kelly Clarkson's upcoming concert in Indonesia will no longer be sponsored by a cigarette company, the promoter said Thursday following protests from fans and anti-tobacco groups.

Clarkson, the first winner of "American Idol," had previously said that while she was surprised to learn that billboards announcing her April 29 concert in Jakarta were prominently branded with the logo of the popular cigarette L.A. Lights, the show would go on with the controversial sponsorship.

"I refuse to cancel on my fans," she wrote in a posting on her blog. She added that she's not a smoker and does not advocate it.

Jeff Bridges, 'Breaking Bad' win Prism Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Bridges is still collecting awards for his Oscar-winning turn as a booze-soaked country singer in "Crazy Heart."

Bridges, co-star Maggie Gyllenhaal and the film were among the winners of the 14th annual Prism Awards, which recognize actors, movies and

TV shows that accurately depict substance abuse and mental health issues.

The awards were presented Thursday at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Other winners included the film "The Soloist" and TV's "Breaking Bad," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit,"

"How I Met Your Mother" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Winners are chosen by an 80-member committee of entertainment industry professionals and experts from the fields of medicine, mental health and addiction. A full list of winners is available on the Entertainment Industries Council website.

Singer settles suit over alleged Nazi-performance

BERLIN (AP)—A 106-year-old entertainer has settled a lawsuit over a claim he sang for Nazi guards at a concentration camp during World War II, a German court said on Thursday.

Johannes Heesters gave up asking for retraction from German author and documentary maker Volker Kuehn, who said in 2008 that the entertainer sang for SS troops at Dachau concentration camp in 1941.

The Berlin state court said in a statement that Kuehn had reiterated his position, but agreed not to call Heesters a liar anymore and to settle the lawsuit.

The court says Heesters

agreed to pay the cost of the legal proceedings. Heesters' bid for retraction and an injunction had been turned down in 2008, but he appealed the decision.

In some of his works, Kuehn cites a former Dachau inmate, Viktor Matejka, who insisted he pulled the curtain for Heesters before the entertainer performed for the SS.

In a 2008 interview with a Dutch newspaper, Kuehn said Heesters always tried to play down or deny this appearance.

Heesters then took Kuehn to court to try to force him to retract his statements.

In the 2008 trial, Judge Mi-

chael Mauck ruled there were "certain indications of a performance" by Heesters there, but more than six decades later it was "no longer possible to clarify whether a performance took place."

Born Dec. 5, 1903, in Amersfoort, Netherlands, Heesters moved in the early 1930s to Vienna and then to Berlin, where he became popular with the Nazis.

He was never accused of being a propagandist or anything other than an actor willing to perform for the Nazis, however, and the Allies allowed him to continue his career after the war.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Rascal Flatts tapped to perform at Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)—Rascal Flatts will perform the national anthem May 1 at the Kentucky Derby in Louisville. Officials announced Thursday that the group, one of country music's top acts, will perform "The Star Spangled Banner" at the 136th Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs. Last year, LeAnn Rimes became the first national recording artist invited to sing the national anthem at the Derby, and the track said the addition was popular with fans so organizers decided

to continue it. Churchill Downs said it also will be adding a performance at the Kentucky Oaks, with Grammy Award-nominated quartet Little Big Town performing the national anthem at the April 30 race.

Tales coming from Mindy Kaling of 'The Office'

NEW YORK (AP)—Mindy Kaling of "The Office" has some stories to tell. She is releasing some comic essays about her life, and life in general, called "The Contents of My Purse." Crown Publishers said Thursday that it comes out

in fall 2011. Crown says the 30-year-old Kaling will write about clothes, romance and "the day she was horrified to learn her boyfriend could fit into her jeans." She stars as Kelly Kapoor in "The Office," for which she also writes and is an executive producer.

Disney bringing back 'Monsters' and Muppets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Monsters and Muppets are coming back to a theater near you. At a press briefing at The Walt Disney Co. headquarters in Burbank on Thursday, studios chairman

Rich Ross said Disney's Pixar division is creating a sequel to "Monsters Inc." that will hit theaters in November 2012. The original film from 2001 grossed \$529 million worldwide. Ross also said the studio was about to give the go-ahead to a new movie featuring the Muppets which will introduce a new character named Walter. It was not clear when the movie would hit theaters. But Ross said there will be plenty of cameos, as with all Muppet movies. So watch for Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, too. James Bobin, the creator of "The Flight of the Conchords" TV series, is set to direct.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

I HEAR YOU SIGNED UP TO PLAY SOFTBALL AT RECESS.

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO. I JUST DID IT TO STOP GETTING TEASED.

WELL, SPORTS ARE GOOD FOR YOU. THEY TEACH TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION. YOU LEARN HOW TO WIN GRACIOUSLY AND ACCEPT DEFEAT. IT BUILDS CHARACTER.

EVERY TIME I'VE BUILT CHARACTER, I'VE REGRETTED IT. I DON'T WANT TO LEARN TEAMWORK. I DON'T WANT TO LEARN ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING. HECK, I DON'T EVEN WANT TO COMPETE. WHAT'S WRONG WITH JUST HAVING FUN BY YOURSELF, HUH?!

WHEN YOU GROW UP, IT'S NOT ALLOWED.

ALL THE MORE REASON I SHOULD DO IT NOW!

Garfield®

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WANT ME TO PLAY IT?

IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'RE EVER GOING TO HEAR IT

Adam@home

I'M SORRY, MY ANSWER IS STILL NO. IT'S WRONG TO WRITE STUDENTS' PAPERS FOR CASH.

KACHUNK

MY TWEED COAT DIDN'T SEEM TO INTIMIDATE HIM AT ALL.

HE WAS IMPERVIOUS EVEN TO THE CHARMS OF MY CALABASH PIPE.

A GRENDEL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.

The Duplex

COLD BEER HERE!

FOUL BALL!

MAN, I LOVE THIS JOB!

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 One vow taker ...

6 ... and another

11 Temp agency employee

12 Tire type

14 Denny Crane, e.g.

15 To-do list

16 Exist

17 Early periods

19 Texas politico — Bailey Hutchison

20 Joie de vivre

22 Skedaddle

23 "... plus c'est la — chose"

24 Up and about

26 Less extroverted

28 Pinch

30 Corn spike

31 Dejected

35 Bold

DOWN

1 Trumpet noises

2 Least civilized

3 Gelid

4 Consider

5 Slip-up

6 Baby-sitter, often

7 Alger's "before"

8 Rhyming tribute

9 Made pig sounds

10 Butterfly title

11 Hotel where Eloise lives

13 Tier

18 Trench

21 Slight shade

23 Overwhelmed (in)

25 Disen-cumber

27 Chap

29 Staring, perhaps

31 Lends a hand

32 Noah's landing site

33 Fine point

34 "Gosh!"

36 Traffic circle

37 Church-ill's

38 Toadies' replies

41 Ad for an upcoming show

44 Expose

45 No neatnik

48 "Great Expectations" lad

50 About to arrive

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	R	O	M	A		P	H	I		S	P	A
M	A	L	A	R		R	O	Z		I	O	N
T	H	Y	M	E		E	V	E	R	E	S	T
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D	O	E		O	D	D		R	E	R	A	N

Yesterday's answer 4-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Clarkson, 28; Derek Luke, 36; Barbra Streisand, 68; Shirley MacLaine, 76

Happy Birthday: You have the potential to make things happen if you go about it the right way. Travel, intrigue and getting to the bottom of things will be your forte this year. It will lead you into ventures that enable you to reach your dreams, hopes and wishes. Now is the time to make the changes you have been contemplating for some time. Your numbers are 4, 9, 20, 26, 32, 39, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): With a little ingenuity, you can turn any deal you are working on into a positive experience. Consider the people you must deal with and the institutions and agencies involved and you will find a solution to any minor setback that may occur. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on pleasure and how you can enjoy a fun-filled day with friends, family or your lover. Don't let the little aggravations be the focus when there is so much to appreciate and be thankful for. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Reach beyond what you would normally do to impress the people who can make a difference. Expect someone to pull out or make last-minute changes that will leave you scrambling. Acting fast and efficiently will speak volumes about your capabilities. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do your best to please the people in your life who count and you will enjoy being put on a pedestal for your caring, sharing and sincerity. ★★

You can make some serious amendments to your current personal relationships. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a lid on your thoughts and you can avoid an argument. Back away and busy yourself with interests and activities that will provide you with a challenge and keep your mind off issues that are bothering you. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to experience something different that will help you make a decision regarding a move or lifestyle change. The more you share with someone you love, the better equipped and more confident you will be. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's important to take care of personal business before moving on to fun and games. You will enjoy your pleasurable activities far more if you don't have odd jobs hanging over your head. Good fortune is apparent. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can put yourself on the line and present and promote what you've been working toward. Help and suggestions will be offered, putting you one step closer to the victory you've been chasing. A partnership will be enhanced by the positive changes. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There is a lesson to be learned and, although you may not want to go down that road, you will feel so much better once you face facts and resolve unfinished business. A change is required in your lifestyle. Distance yourself from people who have chosen a different path. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is plenty you can do to benefit yourself and your family. Start by sprucing up your surroundings and making more time for friends. Money and rewards are heading your direction. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to find allies who see things your way, enabling you to incorporate your experience into an opportunity that benefits you as well as others. An interesting partnership can be the beginning of a new life and a new you. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take on responsibilities that enable you to reach your potential and help you gain control of a personal situation. A partnership that has been uncertain can now find common ground and be brought to new levels. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, strong and determined to follow your heart. You have confidence and the charisma to attract followers and supporters. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			2	8		1	7		
			5		3		2		
3				8					6
		8	6	5	4	9			
2				1					7
		6		9		8			
		1	7		6	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	1	5	8	3	6	4	2
4	2	3	6	7	9	1	8	5
6	5	8	4	1	2	9	3	7
2	6	5	3	9	4	7	1	8
8	3	7	1	5	6	4	2	9
1	4	9	7	2	8	3	5	6
3	9	2	8	6	1	5	7	4
7	8	4	9	3	5	2	6	1
5	1	6	2	4	7	8	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 4/25

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Sports

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

25

There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC b
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declar

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for C

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fate of the \$1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-

enate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.

Sablan's request for \$1.35 fund seven programs and pre tained in the Conference Rep Year 2010 Consolidated A Act, a \$447-billion spendin

10 DAYS to go before Christmas

OPINION

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Bradford goes first to Rams in NFL draft

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rockettes would have loved this show.

From an early Oklahoma party to the Big 12's dominance to Tim Tebow stealing the spotlight from overall top pick Sam Bradford, the NFL's first prime-time draft was worthy of its Radio City Music Hall location.

Starting with quarterback Bradford going to the St. Louis Rams on Thursday night, five of the top six picks were from the Big 12—three of them Sooners. In all, nine first-rounders came from the conference.

"That's pretty cool because I know the Big 12 has been getting a lot of slack lately," said Bradford, the 2008 Heisman Trophy winner. "People for some reason didn't think that we played much football in the Big 12 and sure didn't think we played much defense, so for two defensive tackles to go in the first three picks is a credit to the Big 12."

Give Denver credit for gambling on Tebow, the mystery man of this draft. When the Broncos took the Florida quarterback at No. 25, it drew the loudest reaction—a mix of cheers and boos—from the audience.

Tebow was the third Florida player chosen—and by far the most controversial selection Thursday night. A winner for four years with the Gators, including two national championships and the 2007 Heisman, his unorthodox style and strange throwing motion made for widely divided opinions on him.

Not, apparently, for Broncos coach Josh McDaniels, who hopes he found the long-term replacement for Jay Cutler. In his rookie season as a head coach, McDaniels feuded with Cutler a year ago and traded him to Chicago.

"I enjoyed the working process and all the critics and the negativity," Tebow said. "It only pushed me that much more and only made me work that much harder. I can honestly say that I think that made me better."

Bradford could be a slight gamble, as well. The Oklahoma junior who became the eighth quarterback since 2001 taken atop the draft, appeared in only three games in 2009, his junior year, before undergoing right shoulder surgery.

His recovery has been so complete that the Rams didn't hesitate to make him the future face of the franchise.

Bradford joins a Rams team that was 1-15 last season and scored a league-low 175 points. The Rams cut incumbent Marc Bulger in the offseason.

Bradford was immediately followed Thursday night by defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh of Nebraska, the AP Player of the Year; DT Gerald McCoy and OT Trent Williams, Bradford's teammates with the Sooners.

And what about the Sooners' run at the top of the festivities?

"It's insane isn't it?" McCoy said with a huge smile. "We can't play football in the Big 12, but the first four picks went out the Big 12? Mmmmm—three of 'em from Oklahoma, by the way."

Suh is considered the best defensive tackle prospect in more than a decade. He won the Lombardi, Bednarik and Nagurski trophies in 2009 and comes off a dominant Big 12 title game in which he had 12 tackles with 4 1/2 sacks.

"He made it an easy pick for us," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said. "He's not just a one-year wonder. He's strong. He's good versus the run. He's good versus the pass. He's very intelligent."

McCoy should boost a Tampa defense that once was feared but flopped last season when it yielded 400 points. He displayed his Buccaneers jersey to the crowd and pumped his fist high in the air as "Pirates of the Caribbean" played on the loudspeakers.

The Big 12 bonanza kept rolling when Washington took Williams, an All-American, to fill a huge hole at tackle left by the retirement of Chris Samuels. Williams engulfed commissioner Roger Goodell in a hefty bear hug onstage.

Tennessee safety Eric Berry, also an All-American, went fifth to Kansas City, breaking the Big 12 stranglehold. Berry, noted for his versatility, also has the potential to play cornerback.

Then it was back to the Big 12 for Oklahoma State OT Russell Okung, who went to Seattle, where perennial Pro Bowl blocker Walter Jones might retire.

Florida cornerback Joe Haden was



Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, right, holds up a jersey with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell after he was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in the first round of the NFL Draft by the St. Louis Rams Thursday, April 22, 2010, at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

chosen by Cleveland, followed by Alabama inside linebacker Rolando McClain to Oakland. Both were All-Americans last season.

That also gave the Southeastern Conference three picks in the first eight, showing how highly the NFL

regarded those two conferences.

Clemson running back C.J. Spiller went ninth to Buffalo, prompting plenty of "Oh, no" responses from Giants fans in the packed theater. McClain and Spiller were considered main targets for the Giants.

The surprises and the swaps then began.

Jacksonville took California DT Tyson Alualu, projected as a second-round pick by many. San Francisco then moved up two spots, dealing for Denver's pick to get Rutgers OT Anthony Davis. San Diego, desperate for a running back after cutting LaDainian Tomlinson, jumped from 28th overall to 12th in a trade with Miami. The Chargers took Fresno State's Ryan Mathews, the nation's leading rusher at 150.7 yards per game.

The Broncos then sent the 13th overall choice they got from the 49ers to Philadelphia, which grabbed Michigan defensive end Brandon Graham.

That made four trades involving three consecutive picks.

Seattle added Texas safety Earl Thomas to Okung. Jason Pierre-Paul, who played just one season at South Florida after two years at a junior college, went to the Giants—a choice that generally drew cheers from the blue-clad New York fans in the crowd.

Georgia Tech DE Derrick Morgan went to the Titans, the 49ers added Idaho guard Mike Iupati to Davis in a strong effort to solidify their offensive line, and Pittsburgh went for center Maurkice Pouncey of Florida.

Missouri linebacker Sean Weatherspoon went to Atlanta, followed by Alabama cornerback Kareem Jackson to Houston and tight end Jermaine Gresham of, guess—Oklahoma, who was selected by Cincinnati.

Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees announced the champion Saints' pick to finish off the showcase, Florida State cornerback Patrick Robinson. The swift round lasted 3 hours, 28 minutes.

St. Louis has the opening pick of the second round Friday night, but there could be plenty of bartering ahead as teams ponder all the talent left, including Texas DE/LB Sergio Kindle, Southern Cal safety Taylor Mays and Notre Dame QB Jimmy Clausen.

The SEC was almost as popular as the Big 12 with seven players chosen, three from Florida. Tennessee, Oklahoma State, Alabama, California, Georgia Tech and Rutgers each had two players chosen.

Durant's surge lifts Thunder in home playoff debut



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant rediscovered his shooting form to lead Oklahoma City Thunder to a 101-96 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday, cutting the deficit in their NBA first-round playoff series to 2-1.

In the first ever playoff game in Oklahoma City, Durant had 29 points and 19 rebounds. Durant and Russell Westbrook scored 22 of the final 23 for the Thunder, including every point during a 10-2 surge that put Oklahoma City ahead to stay.

The top-seeded Lakers got back within 98-96 with 13.5 seconds left, but the Thunder closed it out from the foul line to re-ignite the series. Game 4 is Saturday in Oklahoma City.

Kobe Bryant scored 24 points to surpass Jerry West's Lakers franchise

record for playoff scoring, and Pau Gasol had 17 points and 15 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Undaunted by a raucous sellout crowd, the top-seeded Lakers scored the first 10 points of the game and were in control until the Thunder roared back with an electrifying run of eight straight points late in the third quarter.

The fans reached a deafening pitch as the Thunder completed their charge back from an 11-point deficit. James Harden and Durant hit back-to-back 3-pointers to tie it at 74, and Oklahoma City finally took its first lead of the game with its opening possession of the fourth quarter.

Andrew Bynum pulled Los Angeles even for the final time by powering through a hard foul for a dunk, then hit the ensuing free throw to tie it at 80.

Durant answered at the other end with a jumper from the right side with

8:41 left to give Oklahoma City the lead for good.

Bulls 108, Cavaliers 106

In Chicago, the hosts saw their 21-point lead whittled to one, but hung on the beat Cleveland and make it 2-1 to the Cavaliers after three games.

Derrick Rose scored 31 points and Kirk Hinrich added 27 for Chicago.

Hinrich, a career 80.9 percent foul shooter, missed two with 26 seconds left and the Bulls up 104-99.

Cleveland star LeBron James then buried a 3-pointer with 11 seconds remaining to make it a two-point game. The Cavaliers immediately fouled Rose, who missed the first free throw before converting the second to make it 105-102 with 10.1 seconds left.

Chicago fouled Anderson Varejao to prevent a 3-point attempt, and he made the first but missed the second. Brad

Miller got the rebound and converted both foul shots to make it 107-103.

A Mo Williams 3-pointer brought it back to a one-point game with 3.8 seconds left.

The Cavaliers immediately fouled Luol Deng, who hit the first free throw but missed the second.

Cleveland's Anthony Parker got the rebound and raced up the right side but missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer, and the Bulls escaped with the win.

They will try to tie the best-of-seven series on Sunday.

James scored 13 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter but also committed some late turnovers.

Suns 108, TrailBlazers 89

In Portland, Oregon, Jason Richardson scored a playoff career-high 42 points as Phoenix dominated Portland

from the start to take a 2-1 lead in their first-round series.

The Suns led by as many as 31 points before Portland mounted a rally in the fourth quarter, closing within 91-80 after Rudy Fernandez hit three consecutive 3-pointers. The burst came too late for the Blazers, who suffered a setback when starting forward Nicolas Batum aggravated a shoulder injury in the first half and did not return.

Game 4 is Saturday at Portland.

Home-court advantage meant nothing for the Blazers. The fans even booed their team as the players left the court with a 66-37 deficit at the break.

Portland was dismal from the free throw line, making just 16-of-28 attempts. Amare Stoudemire had 20 points for the Suns, while Steve Nash finished with 13 points and 10 assists.

LaMarcus Aldridge led the Blazers with 17 points. Andre Miller, who scored 31 in Portland's Game 1 win, was off for the second straight game and finished with just 11.

Yankees turn triple play but lose to A's



OAKLAND, California (AP)—The New York Yankees

turned their first triple play for 42 years, yet were beaten 4-2 by the Oakland Athletics on Thursday, ending a six-game American League winning streak.

Oakland's Kurt Suzuki, who earlier had hit a three-run homer, hit a sharp grounder to Alex Rodriguez, who stepped on third base and threw to Robinson Cano at second. Cano's relay to first baseman Nick Johnson just beat Suzuki.

The Yankees had gone 6,632 consecutive regular-season games without a triple play, dating to 1968 when Mickey Mantle caught the final out.

Earlier, Oakland pitcher Dallas Braden (3-0) had to be restrained by his manager from confronting Rodriguez after the top of the sixth inning. Braden was upset that Rodriguez had cut across the pitcher's mound while returning to first base after a foul ball, a supposed breach of baseball etiquette. Braden threw his glove against a wall and kicked a stack of paper cups when he went into the dugout.

The A's managed only four hits but benefited from Yankees starter C.C. Sabathia (2-1) tying a career-worst six walks.

Indians 8, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Cleveland finally got some hits in their victory over the Minnesota Twins.

The Indians, who were last in the league in batting average and slugging percentage entering this game, matched their season high with eight runs.

Cleveland starter Mitch Talbot (2-1) followed his first major league win with six impressive innings, holding the Twins to no earned runs.

This was the worst of four starts this season for Twins pitcher Scott Baker (2-2).

Rays 10, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Tampa Bay completed its most successful road trip in history by thrashing Chicago.

The Rays have never finished a season with a winning record away from Tropicana Field. But they went 9-1 on their first trip this year, outscoring their opponents (Baltimore, Boston and Chi-

cago) by a total of 69-23.

Carlos Pena drove in four runs for Tampa Bay.

Chicago starter Jake Peavy (0-1), acquired from San Diego in a much-hyped trade, set a career worst with seven walks while giving up seven runs in 4 1-3 innings.

James Shields (2-0) allowed only two runs in seven innings for the Rays, who are off to the best start in their 13-year history.

Tigers 5, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Justin Verlander labored through five innings for his first win in four starts since signing an \$80 million, five-year contract, and Detroit's bullpen came through again to hold off Los Angeles.

Verlander (1-1) allowed six hits while striking out four. Reliever Ryan Perry escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and Jose Valverde worked around a leadoff walk in a hitless ninth for his fifth save.

Detroit's Carlos Guillen drove in two runs but left in the fifth with a strained left hamstring after he tried to score from second on a single.

Detroit scored in each of the first three innings and built a 5-2 lead against Joe Saunders (1-3).

Rangers 3, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Texas snapped a six-game losing skid by closing down Boston.

Rangers pitcher C.J. Wilson (1-1) went into the seventh inning for his first career win as a starter.

Nelson Cruz had two hits and stole two bases—the Rangers' 13th and 14th in as many tries in the series—and David Murphy also had two hits.

Boston starter Clay Buchholz (1-2) struck out a career-high 10 batters, but the Rangers scored three times on three hits and two Boston errors in the seventh.

Brewers 20, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, the Milwaukee Brewers piled up 25 hits in a 20-0 thrashing of Pittsburgh on in the most-lopsided loss in Pirates history.

Milwaukee matched a club mark for margin of victory and set a record for its biggest shutout win.

Bohn shoots 65 to take Zurich Classic lead

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Jason Bohn took advantage of calm morning conditions Thursday in the Zurich Classic, shooting a 7-under 65 to take a two-stroke lead over Jason Dufner, John Senden, Jeff Overton, Greg Owen and 2006 champion Chris Couch.

Bohn had eight birdies and one bogey—when he tried to reach the par-5 18th green in two strokes and ended up in the water—at Pete Dye-designed TPC Louisiana.

"I was playing aggressively on the last hole," Bohn said. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd hit the exact same shot."

Every time he had a chance for a birdie, he made it, Bohn said.

"And I made a couple of par-saving putts," said Bohn, who had 26 putts.

Bohn was just one stroke off the course record of 64 set by Kyle Reifers in 2007.

Bohn's score held up easily as the wind came up in the afternoon and made the course play much tougher.

"There is not much coverage out here on this golf course," Dufner said. "It's pretty open. So if it can get windy, that will make play a lot more difficult."

Five players—former British Open champion David Duval, Charles Howell III, Kevin Sutherland, 2002 winner K.J. Choi and Troy Merritt—opened with 68s.

Defending champion Jerry Kelly shot a 71.

This is the fifth time this year Choi has opened with a 68 or better.

Choi, Owen and Overton teed off in the afternoon. "It was blowing," said Owen, who made five birdies on the front nine. "There were a few gusts, but it's obviously tough."

Defending champion Jerry Kelly had an opening-round 71.

Three players pulled out during their round due to injuries. George McNeill (elbow), John Mallinger (shoulder), and Jeff Maggert (shoulder).



New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez reacts after initiating a triple play on a ground ball from Oakland Athletics' Kurt Suzuki during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Prince Fielder hit his first home run of the season and Jim Edmonds, Ryan Braun and George Kottaras also—they were among 10 players with an RBI. The Brewers finished with 12 extra-base hits.

Milwaukee led 10-0 after five innings, then scored six runs in the seventh and four more in the ninth. The rout came a day after the Brewers beat up Pittsburgh 8-0.

Edmonds doubled twice and singled, while Braun added a double and single to drive in five runs. Rickie Weeks doubled twice, singled and scored four times.

Randy Wolf (2-1) pitched six sharp innings and three relievers finished up. The Brewers won their fourth in a row and handed Pittsburgh its third straight loss.

Rockies 2, Nationals 0

In Washington, Colorado's Ubaldo Jimenez followed up his no-hitter by tossing 7 1-3 shutout innings, and Miguel Olivo and Ian Stewart hit solo homers for the first runs allowed this season by Washington's Livan Hernandez.

Overpowering at times, Jimenez (4-0) allowed five hits, struck out five and got 15 of his 22 outs via grounders while lowering his ERA to 0.95 ERA. He is responsible for half of the Rockies' wins this season.

Hernandez (2-1) gave up only four hits across eight innings, but made two crucial mistakes.

Phillies 8, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Jamie Moyer gave up no earned runs in six innings as Philadelphia beat the weak-hitting Atlanta to win the season's first series between the National League East rivals.

The Braves took a .227 team batting average into the game after being shut out 2-0 by Roy Halladay on Wednesday night. They had nine hits, including only four against the 47-year-old Moyer (2-1), who struck out four and walked two.

Philadelphia's starting pitchers allowed no earned runs as the Phillies won two of three from the Braves.

Juan Castro had three hits and Shane Victorino drove in two runs for Philadelphia.

Mets 5, Cubs 2

In New York, Johan Santana fought through mild trouble for six innings to keep the game scoreless before David Wright came through with an RBI double to help New York beat Chicago for its first series win of the season.

Jeff Francoeur broke an 0-for-24 slump with an RBI single in the Mets' four-run sixth, helped by second baseman Mike Fontenot's error. Ike Davis had three hits and New York took three of four from the Cubs after dropping its first four series this season.

Santana (2-1) allowed a run and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. Francisco Rodriguez got five outs for his first save of the year.

Reds 8, Dodgers 5

In Cincinnati, Scott Rolen hit a go-ahead, two-run double to spark a seventh-inning rally and rookie Mike Leake earned his first major league victory in Cincinnati's win over Los Angeles.

Leake (1-0) was making his third professional start—all in the major leagues this year. He went seven innings and became the first Cincinnati starter to win this season.

Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer for the Reds, who came from behind twice for their seventh victory of the year.

Dodgers left fielder Manny Ramirez left in the sixth after straining his right calf while running out a single. It was not immediately known how long the slugger will be sidelined.

Andre Ethier and pinch-hitter Garret Anderson each had a two-run homer for Los Angeles.

Marlins 5, Astros 1

In Houston, Anibal Sanchez pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Cody Ross drove in two runs as Florida snapped Houston's four-game winning streak.

Sanchez (1-1) allowed nine hits in 6 2-3 innings and struck out only one, but the Astros stranded eight runners and didn't score until the seventh. Chris Leroux pitched a scoreless eighth and Leo Nunez struck out the side in the ninth.

The Marlins capitalized on errors by left fielder Carlos Lee and third baseman Geoff Blum. Lee's miscue in the first inning helped Florida take a 3-0 lead against Felipe Paulino (0-2).

NCAA to expand March Madness from 65 to 68 teams



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NCAA has decided not to mess around too much with March Madness.

College sports' largest governing body announced a 14-year, \$10.8 billion deal with CBS and Turner Broadcasting on Thursday that will begin with an expanded men's basketball tournament next March. But instead of jumping to a 96-team field, a possibility that drew criticism from bracket-obsessed fans to coaches, the NCAA plans to expand by only three teams, from 65 to 68.

Every game will be broadcast live nationally for the first time in the tournament's 73-year history.

"It was a goal from the very, very beginning. I believe it's what our membership wanted, and it's what our fans wanted across the country," NCAA interim president Jim Isch

said. "I think without question, it was one of the driving factors in our position and why CBS and Turner make such great partners."

Striking a balance was a challenge for NCAA officials.

The previous television deal, which gave CBS Sports the broadcast rights for \$6 billion over 11 years, would have expired in three years. Both sides had opt-out clauses that had to be exercised by July 31, and the NCAA was preparing to do just that. The hope was to create a bidding war and strike a lucrative deal, generating more money for NCAA payouts to schools.

CBS Sports won the war, beating out at least an offer from ESPN. What's new is that CBS will share broadcast rights with Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System Inc. and its stable of cable channels - TNT, TBS and truTV - from 2011 through 2024.

The NCAA won, too: Isch said the new deal will provide an average of \$740 million per year that will be returned to conferences and schools.

Just a few weeks ago, a much-bigger NCAA tournament seemed like it was all but a done deal.

During a news conference at the Final Four, NCAA vice president Greg Shaheen was hounded by questions about how many more classes players would miss to play in additional tourney games. College basketball analysts often called the 65-team format the perfect size, suggesting more teams would water down the tourney. Some coaches, whose jobs often hinge on tourney appearances, even rejected the notion that adding so many teams was a good thing.

Gene Smith, the Ohio State athletic director and incoming NCAA tournament committee chairman, said he was happy with the decision.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	12	4	.750	—
New York	11	4	.733	1/2
Toronto	9	7	.563	3
Boston	6	10	.375	6
Baltimore	2	14	.125	10

Central Division

Minnesota	11	5	.688	—
Detroit	9	7	.563	2
Cleveland	7	8	.467	3 1/2
Kansas City	6	9	.400	4 1/2
Chicago	5	11	.313	6

West Division

Oakland	10	7	.588	—
Seattle	9	7	.563	1/2
Los Angeles	8	9	.471	2
Texas	6	9	.400	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	10	5	.667	—
Florida	9	7	.563	1 1/2
Atlanta	8	7	.533	2
Washington	8	8	.500	2 1/2
New York	7	9	.438	3 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	10	5	.667	—
Milwaukee	8	7	.533	2
Pittsburgh	7	8	.467	3
Cincinnati	7	9	.438	3 1/2
Chicago	6	10	.375	4 1/2
Houston	5	10	.333	5

West Division

San Diego	9	6	.600	—
San Francisco	8	7	.533	1
Colorado	8	8	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	7	8	.467	2
Arizona	6	9	.400	3

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 20, Pittsburgh 0
Colorado 2, Washington 0
N.Y. Mets 5, Chicago Cubs 2
Cincinnati 8, L.A. Dodgers 5
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 3
Florida 5, Houston 1
Cleveland 8, Minnesota 1
Oakland 4, N.Y. Yankees 2
Texas 3, Boston 0
Tampa Bay 10, Chicago White Sox 2
Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 4

ZURICH CLASSIC OF NEW ORLEANS SCORES

AVONDALE, Louisiana (AP) — Scores Thursday from the \$6.4 million Zurich Classic of New Orleans at the par-72(36-36), 7,399-yard TPC Louisiana.

FIRST ROUND

Jason Bohn	32-33-65
Jason Dufner	34-33-67
Chris Couch	33-34-67
John Senden	33-34-67
Jeff Overton	34-33-67
Greg Owen	31-36-67
David Duval	32-36-68
Charles Howell III	34-34-68
Troy Merritt	35-33-68
Kevin Sutherland	33-35-68
K.J. Choi	36-32-68
David Toms	36-33-69
Brad Faxon	34-35-69
Mathias Gronberg	35-34-69
Chris Stroud	33-36-69
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-34-69
Matt Jones	32-37-69
Craig Bowden	32-37-69
Cameron Tringale	34-35-69
Rory Sabbatini	36-33-69
Aron Price	35-34-69
Rich Barcelo	36-33-69
Aaron Baddeley	36-34-70
Bob Estes	35-35-70
James Nitties	34-36-70
Carlos Franco	34-36-70
Steve Flesch	35-35-70
Jeff Klauk	34-36-70
Shaun Micheel	34-36-70
Nick O'Hern	35-35-70
Josh Teater	35-35-70
Alex Cejka	36-34-70
Kevin Stadler	34-36-70
Justin Rose	35-35-70
Ben Crane	35-35-70

CRUZ

From Page 28

Leo Ganacias (79); Ernie Lopez (79); Mike Cruz (80); Ted Malaran (81); Adony Matutino (81); Ruben Avendano (83); Mando Guban (83); Nestor Siruelo (84); Junior Ortiz (85); Ronnie Santos (92); and Ricky Castillo (110); and Pol Bea (116).

With is April tourney win, Cruz joins early Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year qualifiers Dandi Brebanario, Fernandez,

Boo Weekley	35-35-70
Greg Chalmers	34-36-70
Jarrod Lyle	34-36-70
Brenden Pappas	33-38-71
Kevin Streelman	34-37-71
Brendon de Jonge	34-37-71
Mark Hensby	35-36-71
Jerry Kelly	36-35-71
Pat Perez	36-35-71
Troy Matteson	36-35-71
Joe Ogilvie	36-35-71
Kris Blanks	35-36-71
Bubba Watson	37-34-71
Skip Kendall	36-35-71
Matt Weibring	36-35-71
Steve Wheatcroft	36-35-71
Brent Delahoussaye	34-37-71
Lee Janzen	35-36-71
Brian Davis	35-36-71
Ryuji Imada	34-37-71
Fred Funk	34-37-71
Garrett Willis	35-36-71
Arjun Atwal	36-35-71
Fran Quinn	34-37-71
Jimmy Walker	34-38-72
Tim Herron	33-39-72
Ted Purdy	37-35-72
Stuart Appleby	36-36-72
Richard S. Johnson	35-37-72
Greg Kraft	38-34-72
Mark Calcavecchia	35-37-72
Chris DiMarco	36-36-72
Jeff Gove	36-36-72
Nicholas Thompson	36-36-72
Chris Tidland	36-36-72
Andrew McLardy	37-35-72
Steve Marino	37-40-77
Brennan Webb	40-37-77
Mathew Goggins	41-37-78
Chris Smith	38-40-78
Vance Veazey	40-38-78
Brian Stuard	36-43-79
Tyson Shinaut	41-38-79
Webb Simpson	38-42-80
Brian Rowell	40-40-80

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

Aqua Resort	10	3
World Resort	10	3
Mobil	10	3
MBI	9	2
TBK	9	4
Fiesta Resort	8	4
Bank of Guam	6	5
Pacific Islands Club	6	6
McGraw-Hill	5	6
Shirley's	5	7
AON/NJ Plus	4	6
Pepsi	3	6
Docomo/SGH	2	10
Hard Rock	1	11
Cell Pro	0	12

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS

Boys U14	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS.
MP United-Blue	6	5	1	0	28	5	23	16
Tan Holdings FC-1	6	4	1	1	8	3	5	13
Matansa FC	5	3	1	1	13	9	4	10
Paire FC-Red	6	3	0	3	5	8	-3	9
Independent FC	6	1	2	3	4	7	-3	5
Paire FC-Black	5	1	1	3	5	8	-3	4
MP United-White	6	1	1	4	8	16	-8	4
Tan Holdings FC-2	6	1	1	4	2	17	-15	4

Girls U14

Matansa FC	6	6	0	0	23	0	23	18
Paire FC	6	2	1	3	8	8	0	7
MP United FC	6	2	1	3	7	14	-7	7
Tan Holdings FC	6	1	0	5	1	17	-16	3

Boys U18

Paire FC	6	4	1	1	17	7	10	13
MP United FC	6	4	1	1	23	15	8	13
Independent FC	6	2	2	2	11	6	5	8
Matansa FC	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0

Girls U18

Matansa FC	6	4	1	0	12	5	7	13
Paire FC	6	0	1	4	10	10	0	1

NMIFA MEN'S LEAGUE

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United FC	5	4	1	0	22	4	8	13
K. Seniors	5	4	0	1	13	9	4	12
Wild Bill's	5	3	1	1	12	7	5	10
Inter Godfathers	5	3	1	1	11	5	6	10
Matansa FC	5	2	1	2	7	8	-1	7
K. Juniors	5	1	0	4	4	14	-10	3
Tan Holdings FC	5	1	0	4	7	17	-10	3
Young Guns	5	0	0	5	4	14	-10	0

and Jason Gatdula. The latter won the March tourney with his net 66.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B flights.

Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champions are crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every the third Sunday. Green fees range in between \$35 and \$40 for most tournaments. (Walter J. Sutherland)

Ol'Aces defeat error-prone Falcons

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Ol'Aces capitalized on crucial errors to beat Tanapag Falcons, 11-8, in the Senior League Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons actually out hit Ol'Aces, 8-7, but all the costly errors put the Falcons in a hole early and often.

However, in the bottom of the first, Ton Aldan answered back for the Falcons with a solo homerun shot.

In the second, Ol'Aces' J.P. Lizama bunted his way on and later, managed to score off of an error to make it 2-1.

In the bottom of the second, John Pangelinan reached off of an error and three batters later, Dodet Feliciano singled him in to tie the score at 2-2.

Later in the third, Eli Aughenbaugh contributed with a sacrifice fly to left field, as Ol'Aces took the lead, 3-1.

In the fourth, the Falcons continued blundering out on the field allowing the first two Ol'Aces batters to reach and set up Juan Iguel's two RBI double.

Then with one out, Nokki Saralu singled in Iguel and Jimmy Brel kept things going with a single. Aughenbaugh came up later and reached first off of an error as Saralu came in to score as the game turned into a rout with Ol'Aces in control, 7-2.

In the Falcons' half of the fourth, John Wilson walked to first and was singled in by Feliciano to make it 7-3.

Ol'Aces' Brandon Borja led off the fifth with a walk and scored later off a passed ball.

Then, with one out, Jason Lizama hit a single and forced Ton Rogolifoi to relieve Pangelinan on the mound, but it didn't matter because the first batter he faced, Iguel, busted an RBI double to keep the Ol'Aces streak alive.

Lisua came up next and reached base off yet another error that also brought in Iguel.

INDEPENDENTS

From Page 28

Tan Holdings-1 2, Matansa 1

Tan Holdings-1 climbed up to second place after stunning Matansa, 2-1

Kenneth Domingo and Jeron Ano scored one goal apiece for Tan Holdings FC-1, while Sean Perez tallied the lone goal for Matansa.

MP United-Blue 3, Paire Black 1

Chris Park had a hat-trick, leading MP United-Blue to a 3-1 win over Paire Black.

MP United-Blue remained unbeaten in six games, while Paire Black absorbed its third loss.

GIRLS U14

MP United 1, Paire 1

In the first girls U14 game, MP United and Paire had a 1-1 draw.

Tricia Ingram scored for Paire, while Celeste Moore made the lone goal for MP United.

BOG

From Page 28

the game. Aquino missed both charities, but recovered the ball after a long rebound. He made a turn near the free throw line and pulled up for a shot, but the much smaller, but high-leaping Palacios blocked him.

Palacios completed the steal and wasted precious seconds from the clock before pulling up for a dagger—a triple that ensured BoG's big win, the team's sixth in 11 games.

With the loss, Aqua Resort left the race for the pennant wide open. World Resort (10-3), defending champion MBI (9-2), and Mobil (10-3) will be

FIELDERS

From Page 28

Agulto late in the second as both sides played good defense in the third.

In the fourth, the Fielders added another run as hit batter, Eldred Sanchez, was knocked in by Rasa.

The D-9ers were stuffed again in the fourth.

Namelo reached first base on a D9-er error to start the fifth and later on scored off another.

In the bottom of the fifth, Lizama drew a walk and stole home to get a run back for the D-9ers.

Later, Brel came up and hit an RBI double of his own; giving Ol'Aces back-to-back four-run innings and led 11-3.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Falcons went scoreless as did the Ol'Aces in the top of the sixth.

With score at 11-3, the Falcons loaded the bases off of a couple of errors and a single to set up a two RBI single by Feliciano.

Later with two on and one out, Aldan hit a two RBI single and gave the Falcons a decent chance of getting back in the game.

Joshua Jones sacrificed in a run before Ol'Aces could end the five-run rally in the sixth by the Falcons who made a game out of it, trailing only 11-8.

Ol'Aces were denied of any offense late in the game, going 1-2-3 in the sixth and seventh innings.

The Falcons tried to stage a comeback in the final inning, but fell short, managing only two base runners before getting closed out by Ol'Aces.

Jacque Wonenberg logged twin goals for Matansa, while Phalai Frink and Olivia Leung carded one each.

MEN'S LEAGUE

Matansa 2, Young Guns 0

In the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League at the Oleai Sport Complex Field, Matansa nailed its second win after beating the Young Guns, 2-0.

The Young Guns remained winless in five matches.

MP United 4, Tan Holdings 1

In the second game, MP United topped Tan Holdings, 4-1.

MP United gained its fourth win in five games, while Tan Holdings dropped to a 1-0-4 record.

Inter Godfather's 3, K. Juniors 1

Inter Godfather's played in the third game and thwarted K. Juniors, 3-1.

The win was Inter's third against one draw and one loss.

First Game

World Resort 94 — Tabamo 28, Abuel 21, Vinas 17, Navarro 9, Paras 8, Olaitiman 6, Espiritu 5, Apasan 2.

Hard Rock 91 — Tengco 36, Tiamzon 17, Paraiso 14, Besmonte 10, Aranda 5, Lagrio 5, Sablan 4, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 47-42, 72-65, 94-91.

Second Game

Bank of Guam 80 — Coldeen 20, Taisacan 11, G. Palacios 11, Quitugua 11, Pelisamen 11, D. Palacios 10, Mendiola 6.

Aqua 73 — Gapor 22, Lizama 13, Mina 12, Aquino 12, Acosta 8, Torres 4, Mi. Ahas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 38-30, 56-55, 80-73.

Fielders' defense fell asleep.

The D-9ers loaded the bases with zero outs thanks to a couple of errors and a base hit.

Later, with one out, Mark Sablan hit in the lead runner, but Fielders catcher Ben Flores threw out a tail runner at third.

With runners at first and second with two outs, Lizama walked to load the bases again.

Dave Jones busted a huge three RBI triple, trimming the lead to four.

Still with two outs, the D-9ers weren't finished as Tenorio hit an RBI double and David Camacho an RBI singled before the Fielders could get a grip and end the big two out rally in the seventh.



Bradford goes
first to Rams in
NFL draft

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Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

Independents breaks into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Independents finally made it to the win column in the boys U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League, following a 1-0 victory over Tan Holdings FC-2 last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

A goal from Emerson Fera in the 23rd minute of their match last Saturday against Tan Holdings FC-2 gave Independents its first win in six games.

The victory also moved up Independents from seventh to fifth place in the team standings as it improved its record to 1-2-3 (win-draw-loss). Tan Holdings FC-2 dropped to a sixth to eighth place with its 1-1-4 slate.

Paire Red 1, MP-United 0

Paire Red posted a similar 1-0 win over MP United-White behind Kautong Omengkar's goal.

Paire now has three wins against three losses, while MP United-White dropped to a 1-1-4 mark.

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A Independents striker, right, is chased by a Tan Holdings FC-2 defender during their boys U14 game in the NMIFA youth league last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

BoG stuns Aqua Resort in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bank of Guam caught a big fish Wednesday night, pulling off an 80-73 upset over league-leading Aqua Resort Club in the second game of the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League at the JP Center Basketball Court.

David Palacios, who went scoreless in the first three quarters, delivered the crucial plays in the fourth quarter for BoG, hitting important free throws and making a defensive stop to hand Aqua Resort only its third loss in 13 games. Bobby Coldeen also helped BoG's cause, drilling three charities and scoring 10 markers in the fourth canto.

BoG and the complacent Aqua Resort had a seesaw battle in the fourth period with BoG having the slight momentum,

74-72, going into the final two minutes after Coldeen canned a pair of free throws.

A Jessie Mina error returned possession to BoG and had Coldeen trooping the line anew and splitting his charity for a 75-72 lead, with 1:03 remaining in the game.

Peter Lizama was fouled on the other end and split his free throws, while David Palacios also stepped to the stripe and went 2-for-2, upping Guam's lead to four, 77-73, 53 ticks to go.

Lizama had a chance to cut the lead, but instead of going up for a shot after escaping two defenders with his fancy dribble, dished it off to Gil Gapor, who fumbled and lost the ball.

Aqua Resort had another opportunity to move closer when BoG missed on its offensive set and Glenn Aquino was fouled with 25 seconds left in

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Two Aqua Resort players collide after Bank of Guam's Bobby Coldeen eludes their defense en route to an easy layup during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

IT&E Fielders celebrate after fending off a big six-run, two-out rally in the last inning by D-9ers Thursday night in the 2010 Saipan Senior League baseball game at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Fielders nip D-9ers, 13-11

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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RELATED NEWS

O'Aces defeat error-prone Falcons
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The IT&E Fielders fended off a last-inning rally by the D-9ers in the continuation of 2010 Saipan Senior League Thursday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The 13-11 win was the sixth in nine games for Fielders, while the loss dropped D9ers to 3-6.

The visiting Fielders got ahead early by scoring four runs in the first inning. Juan Maratita led off with a hit and second batter Ianis Rasa singled him around from first.

Clean-up batter Ben Flores kept it going with a double to set up Wensner Namelo's RBI single, who later scored off an errant throw.

The D-9ers answered back

with two runs off a passed ball and a sacrifice fly.

It was a rough second inning for the D-9ers as a couple of bad throws allowed two Fielder base runners to sneak home.

Later in the bottom half of the second, the Fielders made an impressive triple play.

With runners on first and second, Fielders leftfielder Jonathon Celis caught a fly ball and threw home, where Fielders catcher Ben Flores tagged a runner at the plate and threw out a tail-end runner at second.

The Fielders replaced pitcher Mark Aldan with Tom

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Cruz cruises to victory in April toruney

Rommel Cruz won the April Ace of the Month Tournament of the Fil-Taga Golfers Association held last Sunday, April 18, at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Cruz finished with a net score of 62 to top the leaderboard in front of Reffy Piamonte (net 65), Joseph Fernandez (68), and Rod Nimes (69).

Cruz recorded a 46 on the front nine and a 43 on the back to give him a gross score of 89. After calculating his 27 handicap, Cruz carded the lowest round of the day.

Piamonte, a 30 handicapper, turned in a 52 on the front and a 55 on the back nine to take sec-

ond place with a 65 net score, while last month's ace of the month, Joseph Fernandez, tallied a 44 in the front nine and 49 in the back nine. Buoyed by his 25 handicap, he capped third place in the April tourney.

A total of 25 golfers participated in April's Ace of the Month tourney. The rest of

the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Gil Faller (72), Jheng Ramones (72); Vic Romana (72); Alsrie Chong (76); Dennis Sebastian (76); Freddie Cataluna (77); Sandy Palon (77); George Sablan (77); Rene Batallones (79);

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